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BIRTH.

At Chefoo, Beach Hotel, on the 22nd December, the wife of Capt. GOSEWISCH, of a son.

DEATHS.

On the 6th inst., at 27, Belilios Terrace, FRANK, aged three years, younger son of JAS. R. MUDIE.

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At Shanghai, on the 28th of December, 1895, JANE, dearly beloved wife of GOWER PILKINGTON, aged 35 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The Canadian mail of the 9th December arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 1st January (23 days); and the American mail of the 10th December arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 6th January (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Confidence in the early opening of the West River continues.

The English are the Chinese of Europe. So says a Tonkin contemporary.

Three men found guilty of the murder of the Queen of Korea on the 8th October last were executed at Seoul on the 28th December.

A Seoul telegram of the 29th December states that an official order has been issued to the officials to cut their hair in European fashion.

A rising against the Japanese occurred in North Formosa on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd January, but was suppressed, and all is now quiet. No foreigners suffered in the affair.

It is stated that a syndicate of native merchants has succeeded in getting permission to establish a steam-launch service between Hangchow and Ningpo.

News has been received of the death of Mr. E. G. Lowe, formerly a well-known resident at Shanghai and a former partner in the firm of Messrs. Fearon, Lowe & Co.

The Japanese Diet was opened on the 28th December. The Budget shows an excess in expenditure over income of 14,000,000 yen. The deficit is to be met by new taxation.

News has been received at Shanghai of the death of Mr. A. Robinson, formerly a well-known solicitor there and much respected, and for many years legal adviser to the Municipal Council.

At Akabane on the 29th December a train, while standing at the platform, was run into by one following it. Two passenger cars were smashed and a dozen passengers more or less seriously injured.

It is officially announced that the British Government has accepted as sufficient the reparation offered by Japan for the wrongful stopping of the steamer *Thales* on the high seas by the Japanese man-of-war *Yayeyama*.

The Japanese cruiser *Kohei*, recently lost off the Pescadores, was formerly the Chinese cruiser *Kuangping*, built at Foochow in 1890, of 1,030 tons and 2,400 indicated horse-power. She was one of Admiral Ting's ships captured at the fall of Weihaiwei.

The native local officials at Shanghai received a telegram from the north on the 29th December reporting the arrival three days previously of a fleet of eleven foreign warships—presumed to be Russian—at an island called Ts'ingtao, about twenty odd miles to the south-east of the entrance to Kiaochou Bay.

A serious riot took place at Ichang on the 21st December arising out of the accidental killing of a native official by a shot from a Morris tube that was being used in a shooting competition at athletic sports which were being held by the sailors of H.M.S. *Esk*. The foreign community took refuge on a steamer in the harbour. Marines having been landed from the *Esk* quiet was restored. The British Consul was stoned and the windows of the foreign residences were smashed.

As will be seen by the official correspondence published in another column, the night and pass regulations are to be modified in their administration, and in ordinary times lights and passes will only be required after midnight. The notice board outside the Registrar-General's office was surrounded by a large crowd all Monday afternoon perusing the notification. We congratulate H.E. the Governor on the course he has adopted, which has relieved the native community of a genuine grievance.

We are glad to learn that there are indications of a resumption of the transit pass system in the Kwangtung province. About ten days ago Mr. John Andrew passed a quantity of piece goods through the custom house at Canton, and took out the first transit pass which has been applied for for about two years. On Sunday, 29th December, he left with his cargo for Wuchowfu, on the West River, resolved to see his cargo to its destination himself and secure that it was not seized or interfered with by the native authorities.

The Shanghai native papers state that owing to the hostility of the people of Szechuen to the entrance of Japanese merchants into that province, the members of the Japanese trade commission who had got as far as Ichang *en route* for Chungking have decided to dress as Chinese in order to escape the unpleasant observation of the Szechuen populace.

According to *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd* the Austro-Hungarian Government has decided to appoint an Ambassador to Peking. Hitherto the Legations in Peking, Tokyo, and Bangkok have been looked after by one representative only, who resided in Tokyo. The new Minister to Peking is Ritter von Boleslawski, at present Minister-Resident in Morocco, who during the seventies was for some time Consul-General in Shanghai. Herr von Boleslawski is not expected to arrive at his new post before July.

We hear that there have recently been attempts, with some success, to lease property on Shameen to Chinese. Where the Chinese are satisfied to allow their foreign agent to occupy the premises nothing very objectionable to other residents need be looked for, but if the Chinese themselves come to reside in the settlement Shameen will soon lose what attractions it has as a residence for foreigners. The community will be well advised to do their best to prevent the insertion of the thin end of the wedge.

H.M.S. *Narcissus*, which was on her way out to the China station, has, we hear, been stopped at Aden. The *Caroline* and *Mercury*, which were under orders for home, have been ordered to expedite their departure and will leave today (8th). It is expected that they also will be stopped at Aden, and it is reported that a man-of-war at Colombo has been ordered to remain there pending orders. The possibility of complications arising out of the South African affair is generally believed to be the reason for the orders received.

The *Progrès Commercial de Saigon*, referring to comments made by a Singapore contemporary on the arrest of the captain of the steamer *Flintshire* at Saigon, asks what would be thought if the captain of a Messageries Maritimes vessel calling at Singapore tried to hire soldiers of the "royal guard" for the army of King Norodom. The answer is simple. If deserters from the Singapore garrison were found on a Messageries Maritimes vessel no blame would be held to attach to the captain who had simply received them on board as ordinary passengers. It is stated the deserters found on the *Flintshire* were going to Java to join the Dutch army, but their being on the steamer affords no ground for presuming that the captain attempted to "hire" them. The Saigon paper is very indignant, however. It says:—"These English are always the same. Persuaded that the whole world belongs to them, they cannot understand that the French, masters in their own territory, should wish to prevent foreign navigators hiring soldiers of the colonial army. The information we possess in connection with this affair enables us to state that the officers charged with the arrest of the captain of the *Flintshire* comported themselves with true French politeness and exquisite urbanity. The outrage was therefore no more contemptible than that committed every day by the French authorities in arresting in the streets of the town noisy Englishman drunk with whisky and brandy."

THE RECORD OF THE YEAR.

The year 1895 has been fraught with events of vast importance and marks the commencement of what promises to be a new era in the Far East, both politically and commercially. When the year opened China and Japan were in the throes of war, but China had been forced to recognise the superiority of her foe and was suing for peace. After trying to conduct negotiations by means of missions not fully accredited she at last saw the necessity of abandoning her shuffling policy and approaching the conqueror in an open and straightforward manner. LI HUNG-CHANG was then sent to Shimonoseki to meet the Japanese representatives and formal negotiations for peace were opened. These were delayed by an attempt on the life of the veteran Chinese Minister by a man of the soshi class, but fortunately the wound, though severe, was not fatal. As a reparation for the outrage the Emperor of Japan decreed an armistice, and this was the end of hostilities between the two countries. LI was able to resume his duties in a few days, and on the 17th April the treaty of peace was signed. By it China ceded to Japan the Liaotung Peninsula and the island of Formosa, undertook to pay an indemnity of Tls. 200,000,000, agreed to the opening of several new ports and to the navigation of the Yangtsze by steamers up to Chungking, authorised the importation of machinery and the establishment of factories on foreign lines, and undertook to negotiatiate a separate commercial treaty. The latter is still pending. The cession of Liaotung was not approved by Russia, and France and Germany joined with her in demanding the restoration of the territory to China. For a time there seemed some danger of a resort to force by these powers to compel compliance with their wishes, Japan being naturally reluctant to surrender her fruits of victory, but ultimately she yielded to the pressure brought to bear upon her and agreed to retrocede the territory upon payment of an additional indemnity of Tls. 50,000,000. The evacuation was finally completed on the 25th December. Formosa Japan was allowed to keep and she commenced its occupation in June and completed it in October. The officials and some of the populace of the island objected to the surrender and the world was entertained with a little political comedy in the declaration of the Formosan Republic, with TANG, the Chinese Governor, as President. In the North the resistance to the new owners proved very short lived, TANG ignominiously stealing away when the Japanese approached Taipehfu. In the South LIU, the Black Flag chief, who had been placed in command of the Chinese troops, made a show of holding out, and it must be recorded to his credit that he kept his men under control, the foreign communities not being interfered with or annoyed to any extent, though great alarm for their safety existed when the British Admiral deemed it necessary to withdraw the guard which had been landed for their protection. When the Japanese ships finally appeared off the southern ports, however, and their land forces approached from the north, LIU, like his *confrère* TANG, secretly made his escape and shortly afterwards appeared at Canton. Formosa is now a Japanese possession, and under its new government a large development of the trade of the island may be expected. Meantime the question of raising the money required by China to discharge the indemnity to Japan had caused great political commotion. Russia, with the assistance of France, made a loan to China of the amount necessary to meet the first instalment, and it was at one time feared that she had thereby obtained a financial grip on the empire which would virtually reduce China to a Russian protectorate. Reports were at the same time current of advantages to be accorded to the other members of the triple alliance. Never was the prestige of England in the Far East so abased as during this anxious period, but subsequent events afforded the opportunity of re-establishing it in some measure and China was made to understand that England is still a power to whose word respectful attention must be paid.

In May an anti-foreign outbreak occurred in the province of Szechuen, instigated and encouraged by the infamous Viceroy LIU. Much destruction of mission property took place and the missionaries were compelled to flee to the treaty ports, but happily there was no loss of life, the orders to the rioters being that they should stop short of murder; the directors of the movement apparently considering it imprudent to go to that extent. There was for a time the usual weakness and vacillation on the part of the foreign Governments in dealing with the case, and while the policy of "talkee-talkee" was still in progress the world was startled by news of a diabolical outrage in another province, an outrage which has been unparalleled since the Tientsin massacre. On the 1st August, near Kucheng, in Fuhkien, a band of men belonging to the Vegetarian Society swept down in the early morning on a mission station and put to death the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. STEWART, their governess, one child, and six ladies, two other children being badly wounded, one of whom subsequently died. The British Government at last recognised the necessity of effective action to suppress the anti-foreign spirit that threatened to sweep over the whole country and a naval demonstration was made on the Yangtsze to enforce compliance with the demand for the degradation of LIU, the ex-Viceroy of Szechuen, for his connection with the riots in that province. LIU had already been superseded in the Viceroyalty and was in disgrace for matters unconnected with the outrages in question, but the Chinese Government had declined to deprive him of all official rank, as demanded by the British Government. On an ultimatum being presented, however, and a naval demonstration on the Yangtsze being made, they promptly did what was demanded, a decree being issued for ever degrading LIU. The atonement was miserably inadequate, and although its execution created an impression for the moment it is of a nature that is likely to be soon forgotten. Had the surrender of the offender's person for incarceration in a British possession been demanded and enforced the officials throughout the empire would have quaked in their shoes and the effect would have continued for many years to come. As to the Kucheng atrocity, the officials who so lamentably failed in their duty of preserving order have not yet been dealt with, nor, so far as is known, has any definite demand in that sense been made, but a trial, by a mixed commission, of the men immediately concerned in the outrage was insisted upon and a large number of the culprits were executed. The Peking Government has reason to congratulate itself that it has been so leniently dealt with in these matters, but the pressure brought to bear by England, though it stopped far short of the point to which it ought to have been carried, nevertheless brought home to them the fact that there are limits to England's patience which it would not be safe to overstep. The same lesson has been taught them in connection with their breach of faith in ceding to France certain territory in the South-west which had been made over to China by Great Britain in the settlement of the Burmah frontier on condition that it should never be ceded to another power. The result of that perfidious action on the part of China has been the resumption by Great Britain of a large extent of territory that had been recognised as Chinese and the moving forward of the Burmah frontier.

Russia, France, and Germany were not disinterested in their interference on China's behalf to secure the retrocession of Liaotung by Japan. The first named power looks forward to the time when the reversion of the territory in question will fall to her own share and in the meantime she is to be allowed to run her Trans-Siberian railway through Manchuria and, it is believed, has secured the right to carry a branch line down to Port Arthur. Rumours as to the acquisition of a naval station by her have also been in circulation, but, so far, have not been verified. The establishment of Russian domination over the whole of Manchuria seems, however, to be only a question of time. Meanwhile, as a heavy creditor of China, she is in a position to exert a potent influence on the councils of the Government. France as her share of the diplomatic success of the three powers has secured an extension of her Tonkin frontier and further trading facilities in that district; while Germany has obtained settlement concessions at Tientsin, and Hankow and probably other advantages not yet made public.

The commercial effects of the China-Japan treaty have already begun to manifest themselves. The recognition of the right to import foreign machinery into China had previously been nominally secured by the action of the diplomatic body at Peking, but the conclusion of the treaty with Japan placed the matter beyond doubt and removed all possibility of further obstruction by the Native authorities. No less than four foreign Companies have been formed at Shanghai to carry on cotton factories, the natives have also seized upon the opportunity with avidity, and Japanese Companies are likewise projected, so that the Model Settlement bids fair to become in a few years a second Manchester. There has already been a large increase in the population of the place in consequence of the new development and property has greatly increased in value. Steamship lines to connect Shanghai with newly opened ports of Hangchow and Soochow are in course of promotion, and will prove a step towards the introduction of steam navigation on all the inland waterways of the Empire. Reports of railway construction have also been rife and it seems tolerably certain that a line will shortly be made between Tientsin and a point within a few miles of Pekng, while the construction of a trunk line from the latter point to Hankow now only awaits the subscription of the necessary funds by Chinese capitalists, which, however, is rather a large "only."

The development of manufacturing industry at Shanghai and elsewhere in the Far East will naturally affect certain branches of the import trade, but its general result will not be to diminish the gross volume of the foreign trade of China, but rather to increase it, and therefore to increase the tonnage employed and the prosperity of Hongkong, for it is on the shipping trade that this colony is mainly dependent. During the past year the shipping employed in the trade of the Far East has shown a healthy

increase and freight rates have been such as to leave a margin of profit over and above the cost of running. The Chinese Customs returns for the first three quarters of the year are also indicative of commercial activity, and most of the public companies having their field in this part of the world are reported to have done well, increased dividends being looked for in several instances. Conditions in the earlier part of the year were, however, unfavourable to our local sugar industry, and although there has latterly been a return of comparative prosperity, which bids fair to continue, the result of the 1895 working is not likely to be brilliant. Shareholders interested in gold mining in the Malay Peninsula must also still be content to possess their souls in patience. During the year several small industries been established in Hongkong, but disappointment has been felt that the colony has not shared with Shanghai in the establishment of cotton factories. For this important industry, however, the conditions obtaining at the northern port appear to have been deemed the more favourable. While not ignoring this disappointment, the trade of the colony during the year has on the whole been good and shows a great improvement on that of the few years previously. We seem now fairly to have turned the corner of commercial depression and after the series of lean years that have been experienced may look forward with some confidence to a period of continued prosperity. Happily we have been spared, with the exception of a few sporadic cases, any return of the plague, which played such havoc in the colony in 1894. The disease made its appearance in some neighbouring places, however, and it was necessary for a time to prohibit Chinese immigration from Swatow, Macao, and Hainan. In noting the conditions of trade during the year mention should not be omitted of the reduction that has taken place in the bank rate of interest, which has enhanced the value of all sound securities and facilitated commercial transactions, though it is not looked upon altogether as a blessing by the class of small investors, who now draw only four per cent. on their fixed deposits in the banks instead of five per cent. as formerly. The introduction of the British dollar, which places our local currency on a more satisfactory basis, is another event of importance in the commercial chronicle of the year.

Turning to the local politics of the colony, the period under review has been one of some excitement. In March the Chinese attempted to resist the application of sanitary laws to common lodging houses by organising a coolie strike, which lasted for twelve days and caused some disorganisation of business during that period, though the inconvenience was minimised by the assistance of the Garrison, a number of soldiers being employed in working cargo. The strike was not on a question of wages but in direct resistance to the law and was therefore seditious in its nature. Too much praise cannot be accorded to H.E. the Governor for the firmness with which he met the movement and overcame it, notwithstanding that there was an inclination on the part of some of the leading members of the mercantile community to give way, a course that would have been disastrous to the future good government of the colony, which it would have placed at the mercy of unscrupulous agitators. The wisdom which characterised Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON's conduct in that matter, however, was wholly lacking in his treatment of the Sanitary Board, a body to which he has shown an uncompromising spirit of hostility. In April His Excellency appointed an Acting Medical Officer of Health, a much needed appointment, but made under terms which could only be construed as a direct insult to the Sanitary Board. The Medical Officer was to be a member of the Board but at the same time entirely independent of it, so that the Board could neither call on him for reports nor give him directions to carry out its policy. Under these circumstances unofficial members then in the colony felt they had no alternative but to send in their resignations, a course in which they were entirely supported by public opinion. Their places have not yet been filled and the whole question of the constitution of the Board is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State. The despatches have not yet been published, but there are indications that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has disapproved of the action of the Government and that the final decision will be in favour of a reconstitution of the Board on a more popular basis. The conviction is steadily growing that what the colony really needs is a Municipal Council with full control over purely municipal matters, including sanitation, and that would be the best solution of the present long continued crisis. Following the excitement caused by the resignation of the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board came the famous inkstand incident. Mr. FRANCIS, whose services as Chairman of the Permanent Committee appointed to cope with the plague in 1894 had been invaluable, was tendered in recognition thereof by the Government a silver inkstand, while his colleague on the committee, Mr. F. H. MAY, was made a C.M.G. Everyone approved of the honour conferred on Mr. MAY, but it was felt that the distinction drawn between him and Mr. FRANCIS was an insult to the latter. Mr. FRANCIS himself took the same view and declined the inkstand, the feeling of the public being entirely on his side, though the manner in which he announced his decision to the Government was not altogether above criticism. It is the general impression that the reason for the shabby treatment accorded to him was that his services had not been properly represented to the Secretary of State by the local Government. Another matter of interest that has engaged public attention is the irritating military contribution question. At Singapore all persons holding honorary office, with one or two exceptions, resigned, as a protest against what was considered the unjust exaction made in that colony. The home Government thereupon took the matter up and after some months' delay arrived at the decision that the contribution should in future be a fixed percentage of 17½ of the revenue. The same principle was applied to Hongkong, but whereas in the Straits the municipal revenue of the different settlements are exempt from the levy in Hongkong it is to be calculated on the total revenue, municipal and general. The result is that this colony will be mulcted much more heavily in proportion to its resources than the Straits, and still more heavily than Ceylon or Mauritius, where lower percentages have been decided upon, the municipal revenues in those colonies being also exempt. The unofficial members of the Legislative Council have vigorously protested against the arrangement and there the matter for the present rests. Should the decision of the home Government be unfavourable to the just claims of the colony it will be incumbent on the community to express its views in no uncertain manner. No formal reply has yet been received to the petition sent home in 1894 praying for increased representation in the Legislative Council, but there is some reason to believe that ultimately the petition will be found to have been not altogether fruitless. This petition, together with the agitation in connection with the Sanitary Board, must convince the Secretary of State that the public is inadequately represented in the administration of the affairs of the colony and some amendment of the existing condition of things, either in the direction of an increase of the unofficial element in the Legislative Council or the establishment of a Municipal Council, may not unreasonably be looked for. In any rearrangement that may be made it is desirable that the Chinese community as well as the Europeans should be accorded the means of making their views and wishes known, for at present much unnecessary irritation and friction are caused by governmental ignorance of the conditions to be dealt with. An instance of this is afforded in the agitation now proceeding in the native community with reference to the light and pass regulations. After being in abeyance for a number of years these regulations have lately been revived, much to the annoyance of those affected by them and without any apparent necessity. Another matter calling for consideration is the repeated violation of the waters of the colony by the Chinese Customs cruisers. When the stations of the native Customs surrounding Hongkong were placed under the administration of the Foreign Customs establishment it was believed that incidents of this kind would be altogether put an end to, and for a long time there was no legitimate ground of complaint, but during 1895 there have been several cases in which junks in British waters have been offensively interfered with.

During the year there have been several important changes in official circles. Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR has been promoted from the Legation at Peking to that at St. Petersburg; his successor at Peking has not yet been appointed and the Legation is at present in charge of Mr. BEAUCLERK as Chargé d'Affaires. A change has also taken place in the Minister to Japan, the Hon. P. LE POER TRENCH having been succeeded by Sir E. SATOW. Admiral BULLER has succeeded Admiral FREMANTLE in command of the squadron and General BLACK has succeeded General BARKER in command of the garrison. The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART has been appointed to the Colonial Secretaryship, which was rendered vacant by the retirement through ill health of Sir G. T. M. O'BRIEN. Mr. Justice ACKROYD, Puisne Judge, after a long and honourable service, retired on a well earned pension, and Mr. A. G. WISE, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, was appointed to the vacant seat on the bench—a very popular appointment. Mr. KYSHE, a stranger to the colony, has been appointed to the Registrarship. Colonel BARROW, who raised and organised the Hongkong Regiment, has been promoted to a staff appointment in India, and on his departure carried with him the good wishes of the community, to which expression was given by the presentation of an address and testimonial. Mr. A. J. LEACH, who had acted on various occasions and for long periods as Attorney-General and Puisne Judge, has been appointed to a Puisne Judgeship in the Strait his departure from the colony causing much regret in legal circles and amongst the members of the Cricket Club (of which he was one of the most active members and best players) as well as in the general community. The retirement of two other public servants

of long standing and good record—Mr. HORSPOOL, Deputy Superintendent of Police, and Mr. SANGSTER, Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court—must also be noted. Mr. SANGSTER will be missed not only in the Civil Service but also as organist of St. John's Cathedral; a thorough musician, he had contributed for thirty-five years to the impressiveness of the services by his admirable playing, and it was with much regret that the announcement of his resignation was received.

Within the last few weeks it seemed as though the close of the year might find England and America on the verge of war over a trumpery dispute about the frontier of British Guiana and Venezuela, as to which the United States appeared inclined to take a high hand, but at the moment more moderate councils seem to be in the ascendent. A fratricidal war between England and the great Republic would be of all things most deplorable and most disastrous in its effect on trade, whatever the final result of the struggle might be. On the Continent of Europe the political atmosphere is highly charged with elements of disturbance, and in the Far East the rival interests of Russia and Japan together with the ambitions of other powers render the position somewhat dangerous, but a peaceful solution of all the questions at stake may be looked for. Given peace between the nations the commercial outlook is bright, and in the hope that nothing may occur to mar the prospect we cordially wish our readers

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

The prospects of the railway in China cannot yet be called good, though an Imperial Edict was issued on the 8th ult. ordering the construction of the proposed line from Tientsin to Lukou-ch'iao. This line, which is to be a double one, will be 262 *li* or seventy-two miles in length, and it is estimated it will cost £7,000 sterling per mile, or a total sum of about Tls. 2,400,000. The rails are to be of 85lbs. so as to give great strength and admit of a high rate of speed on the track. The railway is to be constructed on the west side of the river Peiho, and its metropolitan terminus at Lukou-ch'iao, the so-called bridge of Marco Polo, is ten miles distant from the capital. The EMPEROR does not wish, we are informed by the Peking correspondent of our Shanghai morning contemporary, to have the innovation reach the gates of the capital, so it is not to be allowed to approach nearer than ten miles, where neither the whistle nor the snort of the engines can break the Heavenly calm of the Prohibited city. That the Imperial Government are in earnest, however, about the formation of this line is obvious enough, by the provision made for the funds wherewith to build it. One million taels is to be provided by the Board of Revenue, one million from the Yamen of the Northern Superintendency of Trade, and one million borrowed by the Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG, and which the Tsung-li Yamen have taken over. It will thus be seen that the line is to be paid for out of Government moneys, and it will undoubtedly be managed and controlled by the officials. Little as they know of railways, the Imperial Government evidently have a shrewd belief that the line to the capital will yield a good return on capital, and they are determined to have it under their own control. The traffic over it, both of goods and passengers, must be enormous, and the cost of construction, owing to the conformation of the country, will be very moderate.

When, however, the longer sections of the proposed system of railways come to be considered, the Imperial Authorities soon betray their lack of real interest in the new method of communication. The line from Lukou-ch'iao to Hankow or other point on the Yangtsze, the first great section of the grand trunk line southwards, is to be left to private enterprise. The rich merchants and others are to be invited to find the funds for the prosecution of this work. Whether that line will prove remunerative or not is at present a matter of speculation. Properly managed we have no doubt it will, but whether it will be properly managed is not so certain. The merchants are to be asked to subscribe the capital; the officials will undertake the management. This means it is to be feared, that the public are to provide the means of constructing the work, and the officials will have the fingering of the money. Knowing their officials as they do, we do not believe the mercantile classes will subscribe capital for railways in the management of which official influence will be supreme. Chinese capital is exceedingly shy when invited out by the mandarins. Experience has taught the merchants that officially managed commercial undertakings are non-productive to shareholders, no matter how lucrative the business, and they will only invest in the State Railways under pressure. To a certain extent, no doubt, the wealthy classes are squeezable, and it is possible for the Government to obtain a considerable amount in forced contributions under the guise of voluntary patriotic subscriptions. But unless there is pressure of some sort there will be little public money forthcoming for the construction of railways, and as foreigners are not to be permitted to acquire any interest in them it is difficult to see from what sources the needed funds for railway construction will be forthcoming. It is probable that the Government will be thrown upon its own resources, with the result that only those lines will be made which are considered imperative strategically or those that promise to give exceptionally good returns. This being the present temper of the Government, and the native capitalists being extremely distrustful of official projects, the prospects of railway progress are, as we intimated above, far from rosy. There is still a large party among the officials who are just as inveterately hostile to the innovation as ever, and though for the moment the advocates of the iron way have the floor, it is by no means certain that this concession to "barbarous views" will long be regarded with favour.

Nothing indeed can well be more uncertain than the policy of the Peking Government as at present constituted. Just at the moment it pleases them to have a railway laid from the capital to the port, but the decision unfortunately seems to have been arrived at after an unusually arbitrary exercise of the Imperial power. It will be remembered that very recently two high officials, WANG, a minister of the Tsung-li yamen, and CHANG LIN, member of the Military Council, Lieut.-Governor of Peking, and a Manchu, both men of tried ability and trustworthiness, were dismissed from office by the Emperor KWANG SU on the plea that during the late war they, as Censors, spoke disparagingly of the Empress-Dowager. According to the Peking correspondent of the *Daily News*, this was the merest pretext, and no one in the capital believes it to have been the true reason for their disgrace. He adds:—"The "act has been unprecedented in the annals "of Chinese history. In ancient times, if such an affair took place, the victim's "brother officials would have demanded an "explanation. We look in vain in subsequent issues of the *Peking Gazette* for "any such indication. All Peking has "been set a-talking about the cashiering of "these two officials—one a member of the "Foreign Office, and the other of the Chun-"wuch'u. It is late in the day to punish "them for supposed offences committed last "year. It is said that the "two Ministers were removed from office "to enable the Edict of the 6th December "on the Tientsin-Lukou-ch'iao railway to "be issued. Both officials had spoken out "pretty freely regarding the inexpediency "of railways, and their punishment will "deter anyone from attempting to thwart "the Imperial will." Progress is much to be desired, but if it is to be made only at the whim of an autocrat, it may be doubted whether there will be much of it or whether it will continue. What we want to see is not spasmodic steps in the direction of reform merely out of sudden fancy or caprice, but a real and genuine disposition to embrace improvements out of a recognition of their desirability and a conviction that by their adoption the country will be benefited.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE KOREAN QUESTION.

"In June, 1894, we occupied a finer vant-"age-ground for settling the affairs of Asia "to our liking than we could ever have "dreamed of, which, from what looks un-"commonly like perverse incapacity, we "threw away. The tide flowed, but we "missed it" So says the writer of an article in *Blackwood's Magazine*, and the opportunity he refers to was that of stepping in to settle the affairs of Korea and prevent the collision between China and Japan. With what the writer of the article says as to the general failure of British diplomacy in China we most cordially agree, but we join issue with him on this particular point. Whether the attack made upon China by her smaller neighbour was ethically justifiable or not we need not pause to inquire, but in its results we hold it has been undoubtedly beneficial. The pity is that the war was not carried to its logical conclusion, that the Japanese standard was not hoisted over the Imperial palace at Peking, and that the opening up of China was not effected once for all. The results achieved, however, though they fall far short of what might have been desired, are of substantial value. The arrogance of China has been in some measure subdued, an extension of commercial privileges has been secured, and sundry political bubbles have been pricked. The exposure of England's diplomatic weakness has been painfully humiliating, it is true, but since the weakness was there it is well that it should have been exposed, in order that its causes may be removed and a new course entered upon. As to Korea, the affairs of that turbulent and unfortunate little kingdom are more likely to be satisfactorily settled now than they would have been had the task been undertaken before the war; the conditions of the case are now better understood and the influences at work can be more accurately gauged.

Sooner or later Japan and China were bound to come into collision and England had no object to serve in attempting to forcibly defer the crisis, which would only have become more serious by delay. Quarrels between nations, like quarrels between individuals, do not so often arise

from a specific dispute as from a continued series of irritating incidents and general incompatability of temper. Japan had frankly adopted a progressive policy and accepted western civilization, while China held fast to her traditional conservatism and semi-barbarous system. The two nations had from time immemorial regarded each other with jealousy, breaking out occasionally into actual hostility, and on both sides there was a conviction that the time was approaching for another trial of strength. Japan seized upon a favourable opportunity, precipitated the conflict, and established her ascendency. It is easy to declaim against war in general, and against any war in particular, but if it be admitted that a war can ever be justified by its results the war waged by Japan against China must be so held. Japan has secured substantial benefits for herself and for civilisation and the lesson administered to China was a wholesome one. Granted that some difficult political problems have been left behind, they were already in existence and have not been created by the war but only brought more clearly into view, which in itself is an advantage.

According to the writer in *Blackwood's* "Russia was equally interested with our-"selves in the maintenance of the *status* "*quo*" in Korea. If so, the *status quo* still remains, Korea is still a prey to anarchy and misgovernment, and, in so far as that point is concerned, Japan's policy has proved a failure. The interested powers have still the opportunity of arranging a scheme of neutralisation under their own protection. But, says the writer of the article, "the one important difference to us "is, that in the former case Great Britain "would have been virtual arbiter, now it is "Russia." But would Great Britain have been virtual arbiter? Is it not possible that our interference in Korea at that time might have precipitated a conflict in comparison with which the events of last year sink into insignificance? Russia, we venture to think, would not have accepted the arbitrament of Great Britain except in so far as it suited her for the moment and subject to revision at any time. Great Britain on her part has no such interests in Korea as should make her particularly anxious to accept the responsibilities of arbiter—responsibilities that might have proved as onerous as those she has incurred in Egypt without any of the compensating advantages. Whatever may be said of the general weakness of England's policy in the Far East, we hold that she was wise in standing out of the Korean quarrel, which concerns her only remotely.

THE JAPANESE CURRENCY.

The report of the Japanese Currency Commission has been published in the *Nichi Nichi*, but the only translation we have yet seen is evidently very much jumbled and it is difficult to gather from it the precise meaning of the arguments and reasons set out. The net result, however, appears to be that eight of the members of the Commission thought a change of standard necessary and seven were of a contrary opinion. Of the advocates of a change six were in favour of a gold standard and two in favour of a bimetallic one. The number in favour of a change appears rather extraordinary, as we gather that on the question whether the divergence which has taken place in the value of gold and silver had been to the advantage of Japan or not ten took the affirmative iew and only five the negative. The explanation would seem to be that the majority were of opinion that the advantages accruing from cheap silver are temporary and will be neutralised by a rise in the prices of merchandise. In view of the divided nature of the report it is not likely that the Japanese Government will at present introduce any change in the currency, unless it be to join a bimetallic concert should one be arrived at by the principal nations. Japan standing alone would be quite powerless to introduce or maintain bimetallism. There is nothing, however, to prevent her establishing a gold standard should she be so advised, but it would be greatly to her own detriment to do so at the present time. Her currency is admirably adapted to the requirements of her population, and for the time being secures to her substantial advantages in her trade competition with gold standard nations. We are inclined to think that those advantages will prove temporary, for with the easy means of international communication that now exist values all over the world have a tendency to find a common level. But the two shilling dollar is still worth as much in the Far East as the four shilling dollar used to be, and though in the West two shillings now go farther than the same amount did twenty years ago, it will be a long time yet before equilibrium in the relative values and purchasing powers will be re-established. In the meantime Japan will have the advantage of a period of rising prices, and it is recognised by political economists that trade always flourishes more under the influence of rising prices than under that of falling prices. Gold using countries have for a long period been uffering under the latter and commercial depression has been the result, but the standard having now, as is believed, reached its maximum of appreciation, a commercial revival has set in. To Japan the fall in the gold value of silver has brought cheap money and commercial prosperity and its influence is still very far from being exhausted, though it cannot continue for ever and is perhaps already beginning to wane. While the influence lasts, however, it would be folly to make any change in the currency which would have the effect of neutralising it. This seems to have been the view of some of the majority of the members of the Currency Commission, their view being that change in the future was desirable but not at present. With the continued growth of international commerce no doubt a common monetary standard for the whole world will some time be arrived at, either on a gold or bimetallic basis, but so far as Japan is concerned she may safely leave the question for a future generation to deal with and in the meantime make the most she can out of her present advantageous position as the owner of an abundant and cheap circulating medium.

COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS IN TONKIN.

From the minutes of a recent meeting of the Hanoi Chamber of Commerce we gather that one or two matters have been engaging the attention of the Chamber which have some little interest for Hongkong. The Customs services in Tonkin and Cochin-China are separate and distinct and certain articles which are charged with a heavy export duty on leaving the former country pay no duty on leaving the latter. Chinese took advantage of this state of affairs to ship to Saigon in the first instance goods from Tonkin destined for Hongkong or Singapore, thus evading the duty, which was not chargeable on goods shipped coastwise. To meet this, and probably also to encourage direct export to France from Tonkin, an order was issued subjecting goods shipped from Tonkin to Cochin-China to the same duty as if they were shipped to a foreign country, less one-third. Thus, says the Chamber, the Indo-China possessions are separated by Customs barriers, and it is urged that it would be more rational to establish one uniform tariff, or, better still, to do away with export duties altogether, for export trade being favourable to the development of a country's resources ought to be encouraged instead of being charged with heavy taxes. The duty on raw silk is instanced as a case in point. Tonkin silk is not sent to France, because there is no market there for this variety, and it finds a market in China only on account of its cheapness. But it is charged with an export duty of 100 francs per hundred kilos, and the producers being unable to sell it on account of this charge will cease its cultivation and thus an important industry will probably be killed, leaving a void which will never be filled. A number of other articles are mentioned as being subject to an export duty of five per cent *ad valorem*, although many of them do not yield five per cent. profit and are shipped merely as articles of exchange for the bank. The Chamber therefore urges the suppression, or at least the revision, of the export duties on all articles which do not figure in the direct export trade with France, and, second, the free circulation of goods and the suppression of all duties between Tonkin, Annam, Cochin-China, Cambodia, and the Laos. The position taken up by the Chamber is entirely reasonable, except that in excepting goods "susceptible of direct export to France" it falls short of the logical conclusion to which it should have carried its argument. Entire freedom of trade, especially the export trade, is what a colony requires for its development, but this France resolutely refuses to recognise and as long as she does so there is little prospect of her colonies proving commercially successful. Our French friends want their colonies to rival those of England, but that they can never do as long as the attempt is made to force trade into artificial channels instead of letting it find its natural outlets. Another subject that has engaged the attention of the Hanoi Chamber is that of the transit trade by the Red River. This trade having been "one of the "causes of the establishment of France in "Tonkin, it would seem that all vexatious "measures calculated to cause this natural "route to be deserted should be avoided." Instead of that, however, under pretext of verification, the packages are opened at every Customs station and often detained for long periods exposed to air and damp, the goods suffering thereby and arriving at Yunnan in a damaged condition. Tobacco and matches are particularly affected, the zinc cases being opened and not resoldered, and the Chamber predicts that if this practice is not discontinued a great deal of merchandise will in a short time cease to use the Tonkin route. The prediction is a reasonable one, and while such an unenlightened and illiberal policy prevails as is indicated by the complaints of the Hanoi Chamber it would seem that in the competition of trade routes to South-western China the Tonkin route may safely be held as of comparatively small account.

At Foochow on the 21st December a fire broke out in a shop between the long main street to the city and the Canton men's tea godowns. Upwards of four hundred houses were consumed before the flames could be got under.

RISING IN NORTH FORMOSA.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
TAMSUI, 4th January.

Early on the morning of the 1st January rebels simultaneously attacked several places in North Formosa. At Sintian nine Japanese were killed, at Kantow twelve, at Sikkow nineteen were found beheaded and mutilated, and at Pachina seven belonging to the Education Department. Taipehfu was futilely attacked on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

All is now quiet.

The foreigners are safe.

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

The German Consul at Canton returned to his Consulate some days ago from his trip in the interior, which was of several weeks' duration. The route he followed, we hear, was from Hongkong to Pakhoi, from Pakhoi to Nanningfu, and then down the West River to Wuchowfu and Canton. The Chinese interpreter of the German Consulate proceeded up the West River, in a large native house boat, some time previous to the Consul's departure, to have the boat ready for the Consul to come down the river in. It is reported that some survey work of a general kind was done by some of the party.

A Chinese merchant at Canton who called on the Consul shortly after his return to ask when Wuchowfu was to be opened to foreign trade was told by the Consul, it is said, that he had every hope of the place being declared an open port immediately after the Chinese New Year.

We hear that a shrewd Chinaman at Canton has already secured one or two of the best river-side sites at Wuchow with a view to reselling to foreigners when the opening of the port takes place.

MODIFICATION OF THE LIGHT AND PASS REGULATIONS.

The following documents in relation to the light and pass regulations have been forwarded to us for publication :—

THE GOVERNOR'S ANSWER TO THE CHINESE PETITION.

I have carefully considered the petition presented by you which the Registrar-General has submitted to me. In view of the advice given by that officer and by other leading European residents, I have out of consideration for the comfort and convenience of the orderly Chinese community issued the following instructions to the Captain Superintendent of Police.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 6th January, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour by direction of the Governor to inform you that while His Excellency is of opinion that the night pass Ordinance and the regulation as to carrying lights should remain as at present, so that the Government may at all times have a weapon at hand in the event of riots or serious disturbances of any kind, he considers that in ordinary times the law should not be generally enforced except in the case of persons whose movements the Police have reason to suspect and in the case of persons who are abroad after midnight.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Hon. Com. Hastings, R.N., Acting Captain Superintendent of Police.

The *Japan Mail* translates the following from a vernacular contemporary :—A fair business has been done in cotton yarn during the latter half of the year, and the rate of dividend paid by the various spinning companies for that period will show a considerable increase. The Hirano and Settsu Spinning Companies will declare the dividend of 25 per cent. per annum, and the Osaka and Miye Spinning Companies 20 per cent. The dividend of the Tokyo Spinning Co. is estimated at 15 per cent., and that of the Kanegafuchi Spinning Co. at 10 per cent.

SUPREME COURT.

4th January.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT—SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

TUNG A TIM (APPELLANT) *v.* THE QUEEN BY INSPECTOR STANTON (RESPONDENT).

The appellant applied for an order that the three charges against her for offences against section 16 of Ordinance 3 of 1860 upon which she was convicted on the 12th December by the Acting Police Magistrate may be re-heard and the evidence relating thereto taken *de novo*, on the ground that the conviction was based upon contradictory and insufficient evidence, and also upon the ground that Leung Kam To was convicted at the Criminal Sessions on the 19th November last for stealing the jewellery which formed the subject matter of the charges against the appellant.

Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) appeared for the appellant, and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Mounsey) appeared for the respondent.

Mr. Pollock said the appellant was convicted under section 16 of Ordinance 3 of 1860, and the allegation was that on three distinct occasions she gave a false name and address when pawning jewellery at the Wai Hing pawnshop. The appellant's case was that she never went into the pawnshop at all. The principal witness in the Police Court proceedings was the pawnbroker himself, whose name is Chun Kum Sam, and whose evidence was very unsatisfactory and did not tally with the evidence of Inspector Quincey and Fung Chu, a Chinese constable. The pawnbroker said that about April last the appellant first went to his shop and pawned some jewellery. She gave the name of A Tim, which no doubt was correct. According to his story various other transactions took place between him and the appellant, and on the 24th September, which was one of the dates in connection with which the appellant was charged, she went to the pawnbroker's shop with some jewellery belonging to Ho Tsat, a concubine, who lived at 75, Praya Central. He alleged that the appellant said she was borrowing for her mistress and that she gave the name of Tai Sing and the address, 12, Stone Street, which is the Chinese name for Graham Street. The second date was the 5th October, when she told a similar story, but gave the address at 12, Hirst Street, which was the Chinese name for Elgin Street. The third occasion was the 19th October, when she said she was pawning for her mistress and gave the name of Ho Tai, and the address, 12, Graham Street. Counsel then proceeded to closely analyse the pawnbroker's evidence in order to show in what respects he considered it unworthy of belief.

The Chief Justice—What about. The previous transaction?

Mr. Pollock—We have not gone into those transactions.

The Chief Justice—There were eight or nine transactions, beginning in April and extending to October.

Mr. Pollock—Yes.

The Chief Justice—And relating to the same sort of jewellery?

Mr. Pollock—Yes. Ho Tsat missed some of her jewellery on the 19th October, and on the 25th October she ascertained that they had been pawned at the Wai Hing pawnshop.

The Chief Justice—It is almost absolutely clear that she was pawning the jewellery all along right away from April. She says she missed this particular lot in October, but the previous transactions related to her jewellery, and they could not have been stolen and replaced during seven months.

Mr. Pollock—Ho Tsat's story is that she never pawned the jewellery.

The Chief Justice—Yes, she says so; it even makes you smile, Mr. Pollock.

Mr. Pollock—Of course there is no doubt there are some very peculiar features in this transaction; that is one of our strongest points. It is quite clear there is something behind this matter; but the only question we have to consider now is whether the Magistrate was justified in convicting the woman.

Counsel, proceeding with the pawnbroker's evidence, said that he and the woman were in the charge room of the station before she was arrested and it was very curious that he did not identify her then if she had been in his shop several times.

The Chief Justice—Perhaps he did not see her. At any rate he got a photograph of her and procured her arrest.

Mr. Pollock—He procured her arrest several days afterwards—on the 5th November.

The Chief Justice—Well, she went away to Canton on the 25th October with Ho Tsat's permission; we do not know when she came back.

Counsel said another curious point was that the pawnbroker first of all said the woman's name was A Tai, and it was not until 6th November that he said her name was A Tim.

The Chief Justice—It is quite natural that the pawnbroker should give the first name entered in his book—A Tai. The case does not rest altogether upon the evidence of the pawnbroker. His assistant was ready to corroborate as to the appellant going to the shop over and over again. There is also a Chinese police constable who was in the parlour when the pearls were pawned on the very occasion—24th September. Then there is the fact that on the morning when the pawnbroker went to Ho Tsat's house to identify the woman Ho Tsat allowed A Tim to go to Canton. That to my mind is a very material point in corroboration.

Mr. Pollock—Your Lordship is discrediting entirely the evidence of Ho Tsat.

The Chief Justice—As I said before, we have previous transactions with this pawnbroker relating to pearls pawned in the same name; surely it is not a wild inference to draw that this was Ho Tsat's property all along.

Mr. Pollock—Another curious point is that Ho Tsat swore that the photograph of A Tim was shown to the pawnbroker and he failed to recognise the woman.

The Chief Justice—It would have been very much better if he had been shown A Tim herself. However, that is what Ho Tsat says.

Mr. Pollock—She was corroborated by two witnesses.

The Chief Justice—Her servants.

The Puisne Judge—And one of them said the pawnbroker was not shown the photograph.

Mr. Pollock—It was said his attention was specially directed to the photograph.

The Chief Justice—Why didn't Ho Tsat say "I have another servant, but I have allowed her to go to Canton. The Inspector is present, and here is her photograph; it is a very good likeness, so see if you can identify her?" The Inspector himself says he did not see the photograph.

Mr. Pollock further pointed out that the convicted man's brother took A Tim's photograph to the pawnbroker who even then failed to identify it.

The Chief Justice remarked that the pawnbroker had a copy of this photograph printed and by that means had the woman arrested on meeting her in the street, but at the request of Ho Tsat she was discharged after being taken to the station. When the case against the man was tried at the Criminal Sessions the pawnbroker was in the witness's room prepared to say that the woman A Tim pawned the goods.

Mr. Pollock—Why didn't the man himself ask for him to be called?

The Chief Justice—If he had known how to conduct his own defence I have no doubt he would have asked. As a rule a Chinese defendant asks no questions, but makes a statement at the end. There was even no suggestion made to the learned Judge that the pawnbroker was able to give evidence, and the case as presented did not suggest the pawning by a woman at all. No doubt the jury were led to believe that the man himself pawned the jewellery, but that is impossible, is it not?

Mr. Pollock—I do not think it is impossible.

The Chief Justice—It is impossible if the previous transactions related to Ho Tsat's jewellery.

Mr. Pollock—The man might have pawned it.

The Chief Justice—He was not her servant.

Mr. Robinson—He was occasionally in the house, but he was employed at the shop next door as a shop boy.

The Chief Justice—It seems to me very unlikely that a shop boy could be pawning this jewellery and redeeming it from time to time for various sums of about Tls. 1,000 each. Is it not more likely that Ho Tsat herself was obtaining money on her own jewellery?

Mr. Pollock—The whole case is throughout a mystery.

The Chief Justice—That is more likely than that a shop boy should pawn it. He would have lost money on the transactions all the way through. I do not think it is clearly shown there was a theft at all; it is quite likely there was not.

Mr. Pollook—No theft at all! The woman A Tim was arrested in connection with the theft.

Mr. Robinson—And discharged at the request of Ho Tsat.

Mr. Pollock concluded by pointing out that there was something inconsistent in the fact of the man being convicted of stealing the jewellery and the woman for pawning it. Therefore upon public grounds the matter ought to be inquired into fully; then everything would come out that was at present known.

Mr. Robinson was not called upon for the respondent.

The Chief Justice—I think the evidence in this case is as clear as any evidence can be. The charge against the appellant is that she pawned certain jewellery belonging to Ho Tsat on the 24th September and two other dates and gave incorrect particulars to the pawnbroker as to the name and address of the owner. There is no doubt that this jewellery belonged to Ho Tsat, and there is no doubt that a fictitious name and address were given by the person pawning. The only question is whether the evidence is sufficiently clear to warrant the conviction of this woman as having been the person who took the goods to the pawnshop. Now upon that point the evidence is very strong indeed. The pawnbroker says he knew this woman perfectly well; she had been going to his shop over and over again since the month of April last right up to October with articles of the same sort—valuable jewellery—and giving different names and two or three different addresses all the way along. In this case the transaction was not an isolated one. He knew her well, according to his statement, and he knew her name, and he had repeatedly had transactions with her of a similar nature. That is what he says. Then there is the assistant, who was produced before the Magistrate, prepared to corroborate. He is tendered for cross-examination, but no questions were put to him. Then there is the constable who was present when this woman brought the pearls upon one of the occasions in respect of which she was charged, and he saw the pearls; that is very strong evidence. The case does not stop there, though. There is another pawnbroker and he says that this woman came to his shop and compared the prices with those paid by the other man. That is very strong corroborative evidence, and it does seem to me that the evidence is very substantially corroborated by Ho Tsat, the owner of the jewels. I cannot doubt for a moment that it is perfectly within Ho Tsat's power to clear up this matter if she likes to, and I cannot doubt for a moment that this jewellery which was pledged from April right down to October belonged to Ho Tsat. I think it is exceedingly unlikely, with respect to the previous transactions at any rate, that the jewels could have gone without her being fully aware of it. I think, therefore, that, in regard to the previous transactions, Ho Tsat authorised the pawning of the jewellery, and that they were pawned for herself. Some of the particular jewels were not redeemed and for some reason or other their absence was discovered. They were at the pawnbroker's shop, and they could not be redeemed. Whether there was a theft or not it is difficult to say. It may be that this woman A Tim had been employed to pawn the jewellery all the way along, and that on one occasion she stole some of them and pledged them for her own benefit. On the other hand it might not have been so. It might be that she was still pledging for Ho Tsat. That is a matter which must be left in doubt. When it was suggested that there had been a theft and the pawnbroker was called upon to go to Ho Tsat in order to see if he could recognise one of the servants this very woman A Tim had been allowed to go to Canton that day, and Ho Tsat allowed her. I think that is a very material corroboration of the pawnbroker's evidence. Then we know that subsequently a photograph was obtained by a friend of the man charged with the theft and supplied to the pawnbroker. The pawnbroker got a copy for his own benefit and seeing A Tim in the street a short time afterwards caused her to be arrested. It seems to me that the conduct of the pawnbroker all along is such as to allow us to assume that his story is correct. No doubt there is some trouble behind this case which I do not know of. I do not know whether a claim has been made against the pawnbroker—whether it is suggested that he should lose the money which has been advanced and give up the jewellery without being paid; but I feel certain that Ho Tsat did know that A Tim was the woman who pawned the jewellery, and that the pawnbroker wanted her arrested, and in fact procured her arrest. It seems to me quite clear that this woman pledged the jewellery and that is the only question we have to try. It is quite possible that the police were misled by the pawnbroker's statement in the first instance as to the name of the person who actually pawned the property. The pawnbroker no doubt may have thought that he had been a party to an illegal proceeding, and he may have concealed his own knowledge in the first instance, but, as I have shown, the case in this particular respect does not rest solely upon the pawnbroker's evidence. He is corroborated in the most substantial way by evidence which, as far as evidence in the Police Court goes, I consider perfectly satisfactory. It is suggested there is a conflict of evidence. Two women servants and Ho Tsat say that this pawnkroker when he came to the house to identify the pawner was shown a photograph of A Tim, and he said he knew this was not the person who pawned the goods. My own opinion is that he was not shown the photograph at all. I do not believe that evidence. Inspector Quincey was there and he says no photograph was shown. It is possible there was a photograph in the room, but it would have been perfectly easy if they had wanted to produce the woman A Tim. Then there is the question of the photograph which was afterwards taken to the pawnbroker, who got a copy made for his own purpose and by that means procured the arrest of the woman. It is suggested that the pawnbroker and A Tim were together in the station. The pawnbroker says he did not see A Tim; I do not in the least believe he did. If he had seen her his conduct would have shown it; he would have immediately proclaimed her as the person who pawned the goods. I do not think there is any conflict of evidence; the evidence seems all one way. There are suggestions made as to inferences which might be drawn on very doubtful evidence, but they are only wild inferences we are asked to draw. On the other hand the evidence for the prosecution is clear. I am quite certain there was sufficient reliable evidence of A Tim having pawned the jewels and giving fictitious names and addresses, and the appeal must be dismissed. I must now say a word or two about the case of the man Leung Kam To. I have looked through the depositions in that case and I have consulted the learned Judge who tried it, and I have seen the notes of the evidence, and I think it is perfectly clear that the case as presented to the Court was not a strong case against the man at all. It consisted of the evidence of the little girl who said the prisoner induced her to take Ho Tsat's jewellery. She was by her own confession guilty and her evidence must be accepted with extraordinary caution and reserve. Then there was the alleged confession by the prisoner. There again the evidence was weak. The surrounding facts seem to show that whatever confession he made had been extorted from him by threats held out by Ho Tsat and others. But however that might be the jury took a different view of the evidence and they convicted the prisoner. The learned Judge agrees with me that on the evidence it is quite clear that this man ought not to have been convicted, and that being so the learned Judge will be able to make a recommendation for the man's release and that recommendation, from what I know of the case, shall be most carefully and thoroughly prepared.

The Puisne Judge—I concur. I can only express my sorrow that the additional evidence was not called at the original trial, as I am inclined to believe there would have been no conviction.

The Chief Justice—The appeal is dismissed with costs.

THE "THALES" AFFAIR.

In reference to the *Thales* affair, we give below translations of the two Notes Verbale which passed on the subject between H.B.M. Minister, Tokyo, and the Japanese Government, which have now been published in the *Official Gazette* of Japan. In addition to the compensation to be paid to the owners of the *Thales*, the responsible Japanese naval officers are also to be punished. Rough translations of the notes have already appeared in our columns.

NOTE VERBALE.

The British steamer *Thales* having left Taiwan on the 20th October with 800 passengers, mostly women and children, was stopped fifteen miles from Amoy by the Japanese cruiser *Yayeyama* before daybreak on the following morning and a search crew was placed on board by the Commander of the cruiser. The Commander wished to take out seven passengers, against which the master protested. The Commander of the cruiser then insisted on placing two officers on board and after a detention of ten or twelve hours allowed her to proceed to Amoy on condition of holding the men he required at the disposal of the Japanese Consular authority for that port.

H.B.M.'s Consul of course demanded that the men claimed by the Commander of the Japanese cruiser should be delivered to him, and that having been done set them at liberty.

H.B.M.'s Minister has now received instructions from his Government to inquire what explanation the Japanese Government have to offer respecting the stoppage of a British ship on the high seas by a Japanese war vessel and her search and detention.

Tokyo, 24th October, 1895.

NOTE VERBALE.

The Imperial Government have not failed to take into very serious consideration the Note Verbale which H.E. H.B.M.'s Minister did them the honour of presenting to them on the 24th ult., in reference to the search and detention of the British steamer *Thales* by the Japanese man-of-war *Yayeyama*.

Full reports of the attending circumstances of the case are still wanting, but sufficient is known to enable the Imperial Government to determine that the incident occurred on the high seas and that the *Thales* was at the time on a voyage from Taiwan to Amoy, China.

From the meagre information at hand, the Imperial Government are led to believe that the acts complained of were the result of a misapprehension of instructions, but setting aside once for all any discussion of incidental points, the Imperial Government hasten to acknowledge that the acts were, in contemplation of international law, wholly without warrant. They regret exceedingly that the occurrence should have taken place and are prepared to fully compensate the *Thales* for the wrong suffered.

The instructions which the Imperial Government are issuing to their vessels of war will make a repetition of the incident impossible, and, while expressing their warm appreciation of the considerate manner in which the event was brought to their notice, the Japanese Government venture to hope that the explanation and reparation which they offer will prove satisfactory to Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

Tokyo, November 6th, 1895.

The *Amoy Gazette* publishes the following extract from a despatch received by H.B.M. Consul at that port from Sir E. Satow, K.C.M.G., H.M. Minister, Tokyo:—

Tokyo, 9th December.

Sir,—With reference to your despatch of the 26th of November, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have accepted as sufficient reparation in the case of

the visit of the *Thales* by the Japanese cruiser *Yaycyama*—(1) the publication of a proper expression of regret in the Japanese Official Gazette, (2) the punishment of the officers responsible, and (3) the payment of compensation to the owners of the *Thales*.

C. T. Gardner, Esq., C.M.G.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the afternoon of the 3rd inst. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Dr. F. W. Clarke (Health Officer), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS.

The village contract specifications were considered and approved.

THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND THE CONSERVANCY BOATS.

Since January, 1894, correspondence has taken place between the military authorities and the Government respecting smells from the anchorage station for the conservancy boats. On the 7th of last month the Medical Officer of Health and Mr. McCallum went over to Stonecutters' Island at the time the conservancy boats from Victoria were discharging cargo. No smell was perceptible. The forenoon was calm, but making due allowance for this it was difficult, reported Mr. McCallum, to understand how the smell from the boats in question can at any time affect the camp on Stonecutters' Island. However, he recommended that the military authorities be asked to telephone or telegraph over at a time when they had cause for complaint, when either he or Dr. Clarke would investigate matters. In reply to this report Major Botfield wrote on the 20th of last month that Mr. McCallum seemed to doubt the statements that there is a stench. "There is, however, no doubt about it; there is at times an abominable stench, and I can see no object in anyone going over to smell it. The only thing is to shift the boats." Lieut.-Colonel O'Gorman also hoped that the boats would be shifted as suggested.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Ede—From my own observation there is no doubt that the stench from the boats is very bad at fully half a mile from them dead to leeward. The question is, Can an anchorage be selected which will prevent the smell reaching the shore, whether Stonecutters' or elsewhere? If so it should be done.

The Health Officer—I see no reason for altering the anchorage of the conservancy boats off Stonecutters' Island; the site has been chosen with great care and with every regard to its various surroundings, and to the direction of the prevailing winds.

The Colonial Surgeon—It is reasonable to expect that during the N.E. monsoon the boats should be moved to the west of Stonecutters' as appears from the correspondence dated 17.4.94 to have been agreed upon.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—Shift them three-quarters of a mile due west of Stonecutters'.

The President—It appears from these papers that the smell is not a constant occurrence. If the military authorities will assist the Board by giving information when the smell actually exists the boats will be visited by an officer of the Board and the operations actually being carried on ascertained. It seems very doubtful whether the mere existence of this conservancy station is sufficient to account for the alleged nuisance at Stonecutters'.

The Secretary—It seems to me it would be a waste of valuable time to circulate a confused mass of correspondence like this to members, and I recommend that the military authorities be invited to state their complaint clearly and distinctly. To this request the argumentative reply might be given—the stench from the conservancy boats at anchor off the north-east corner of Stonecutters' Island. That, however, is not the point, or rather only part of the point, at issue. Surely the military authorities can give the distance the anchorage is from their encampment, and whether this anchorage is in British or Chinese waters, or on the line of demarcation between the two waters. The officer in command of the Royal Artillery at Stonecutters' Island seems to think that the Civil Government should accept his statements and recommendations without any investigation. I hardly think the Civil Government will take any action until they have had the reports of the officers concerned before them. These officers cannot possibly report that a nuisance exists till they have observed the nuisance. It is for this reason that a request has been made to telegraph at a time when the nuisance is observable. On Saturday both Dr. Clarke and myself had a telegram at 1 p.m. that the stench from the boats was perceptible on the island. We got over there at 2 p.m. and certainly it was not perceptible then, nor was the breeze blowing from the boats towards the island.

In answer to the President the SECRETARY said that three days ago he received a telegram from the military authorities stating that the stench was noticeable only between ten and twelve o'clock.

The PRESIDENT said it would be well before altering the anchorage to definitely ascertain what was the real cause of the nuisance. He moved that the Colonial Secretary be informed that the Board were investigating the matter, and at present they had no definite proposition to make as regards the removal of the boats.

The HEALTH OFFICER seconded.

Carried.

AWNINGS AND SUNSHADES.

Two petitions were presented from the "gentry and merchants of the colony praying that they may be exempted from removing sunshades or awnings." The petitioners said that they had carried on business for many years and awnings and sunshades had been erected for a long time without any objection by shopkeepers and householders as a shelter from wind, sun, and rain. Notices had now been received ordering the immediate removal of sunshades and awnings, but for what reason petitioners were ignorant. If the awnings were removed their goods would suffer.

The HEALTH OFFICER said it was absolutely necessary if the sanitation of the colony was to be maintained that the sunshades and awnings should be removed. He did not refer so much to those sunshades which were merely dilapidated and dirty, because these could be removed and replaced by better ones, but to those sunshades which were so placed over the doors of houses as to obstruct a considerable portion of light, and this was one of the causes of the all pervading odour to be found there; the plague records amply bore out this statement. Dirt was bound to accumulate in dark places, and during the last three months he had been in many Chinese places where it was impossible, except by means of artificial light, to distinguish the features of the inmates. That being so he thought it was proper to open the ground floors and throw more light into them. The causes of the darkness were two-fold. One was the size of the opening at the back of the house—a defect which was remedied last year by Ordinance; and the other cause was the fact that awnings were placed so low down as to cover a considerable portion of the front door or entrance to the shop; perhaps in addition a variety of articles obstructed the light. He moved—"That the Board directs that any awning or sunshade which in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health shall be so dirty or so dilapidated as to constitute a nuisance shall be cleansed, repaired, or removed as the Medical Officer of Health shall direct, provided that any sunshade which shall render any inhabited room so dark as to be prejudicial to the health of the inmates shall be removed."

The PRESIDENT hoped the members of the Board would concur in the resolution, which he seconded. He quite agreed that there were many cases in the colony where the existence of the sunshades in their present condition and position could not be other than injurious to sanitation. Under the circumstances he thought the Board ought to take active steps at once to improve this state of things.

The resolution was carried.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 21st December last the rate of mortality was 31 per 1,000 per annum as against 19.6 for the corresponding week of last year. For the week ended 28th December the rate was 24.9 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 16.8 for the corresponding period of last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until Thursday week.

MR. J. D. HUMPHREYS AND HIS CARRIAGE.

FIRST PROSECUTION UNDER THE VEHICLE ORDINANCE.

At the Police Court on the 31st Dec., before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Mr. J. D. Humphreys was summoned for "unlawfully using a private vehicle, to wit, a four-wheeled carriage, for which a licence is required, without having a valid licence for the same on the 28th December, contrary to Ordinance 13 of 1895, section 3."

Mr. Humphreys denied the charge.

Inspector Quincey was the first witness called and said—On Saturday, the 28th ult., about 11.30 a.m., I was with Sergeant Holt in the Queen's Road. We saw a four-wheeled carriage, to which were attached two ponies, standing outside the Hongkong Dispensary. I knew the carriage belonged to Mr. Humphreys, having seen him riding in it before. The vehicle is kept at Mount Richmond, which is Mr. Humphreys' residence. I spoke to Mr. Humphreys about the licence previous to the 28th December and asked him if he had received a letter from Captain Hastings about private carriages. He replied "Yes, I will comply."

Mr. Humphreys—I admit I did not take out a licence, and I do not mean to.

Mr. Humphreys to witness—You say this was on the 28th—that was on Saturday—and the time half-past eleven.

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Humphreys—Are you quite sure the carriage you saw was my carriage?

Witness—It was the same one that you are accustomed to drive.

Mr. Humphreys—Were they the same ponies?

Witness—I can't exactly say.

Mr. Humphreys—Has Mr. Belilios a four-wheeled carriage?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Humphreys—I can prove that I had only one carriage pony on the day in question. The other pony had been killed, which rendered it quite impossible for me to use the carriage. I did not drive a four-wheeled carriage on the 28th Dec., and no carriage of mine stood outside the Hongkong Dispensary during any part of that day, with or without ponies. I had one carriage pony on the day in question; the other was killed some days before.

Mr. Hart Buck was then called and examined by Mr. Humphreys. He said he know Mr. Humphreys' carriage; he did not use it on Saturday, the 28th December, as he only had one pony on that date. The other pony broke its back fourteen days before and was killed. Since then Mr. Humphreys had not, to witness's knowledge, used his carriage.

By his Worship—Mr. Humphreys did possess a four-wheeled carriage, but he did not think he had a licence for it.

His Worship—Where were you on that day?

Witness—I was at the office a part of the day. I left there in the afternoon.

His Worship—Where is your office?

Witness—Next to the Hongkong Dispensary.

His Worship—Where was Mr. Humphreys' four-wheeled carriage on that day?

Witness—I don't know.

His Worship—How do you know that the carriage was not used by Mr. Humphreys on that day?

Witness—Because he was in the office the best part of the day.

His Worship—You say the carriage was not standing outside the Hongkong Dispensary on the day in question. How do you know that?

Witness—Because I did not see it.

His Worship—It is quite possible it might have been there without you having seen it?

Witness—Oh, yes, it is quite possible, but improbable.

His Worship—Do you know how long Mr. Humphreys was in his office on that day?

Witness—He was in and out all day; I don't know when he left.

Mr. Humphreys—I was—

His Worship—You must not interrupt, please. When I have finished cross-examining the witness you will be at liberty to ask him any question you wish, but you must not interrupt now, and I will not have it.

In the course of further questions by his Worship as to his movements on that day, wit-

ness said he went to Watson's Board room at 11.30 after having attended a meeting of the Punjom Mining Co.

Mr. Humphreys—Do you remember having a conversation with me when I asked you to be present at the meeting?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Humphreys—The meeting lasted about a quarter of an hour altogether?

Witness—Yes, about that.

Mr. Humphreys—Then you went out by which door?

Witness—The Queen's Road door.

Mr. Humphreys—That is the door exactly opposite to where my carriage would stand if it was there?

Witness—Yes.

His Worship—Are you referring to Watson's meeting?

Mr. Humphreys—Yes. (To witness)—The fact that you did not see the carriage there proves conclusively in your opinion that it was not there?

Witness—Yes.

His Worship—That is after twelve o'clock, the time mentioned by the police is 11.30.

Mr. Humphreys—I am coming to that point, if you will allow me to conduct the examination in my own way. (To witness). You can state as a fact that if the carriage had been there when you left Watson's meeting to go to the Balmoral meeting you would have seen it?

Witness—Yes, and when I came back from the Punjom meeting.

Mr. Humphreys—If the carriage had been there at 11.30 as stated by the police, it would have also been there at 12.15; it would have waited for me? If I have my carriage at all it is the custom for it to wait outside for me?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Humphreys—If it had been there at 11.30 it would have been there at 12.15 unless I sent it away?

Witness—Yes; it was not there when I came back from the Punjom meeting.

Mr. Humphreys—That was about 11.30?

Witness—A little later perhaps.

Mr. Humphreys—What time did you go to the Punjom meeting?

Witness—A few minutes to eleven o'clock.

Mr. Humphreys—Can you also state as a fact that when you went to the Punjom meeting there was no carriage at my door?

Witness—I am quite certain of it.

Mr. Humphreys—When you returned you found me in my office?

Witness—Yes.

His Worship—He only says he thought you were there; he is not quite certain about it.

Mr. Humphreys—His memory is returning to him. I think that fully disposes of the charge that the carriage was there at 11.30. Of course if your Worship wants any further information on the point I can call the groom, but he is not here now. I only received the summons late last night.

His Worship—I will adjourn the case if you like.

Mr. Humphreys—It is for me to say. I swear positively that I did not leave my office from the time Mr. Hart Buck went to the Punjom meeting until the time he returned.

His Worship said he should require Sergeant Holt's evidence, and Mr. Humphreys expressed his intention of calling his groom.

The case was accordingly adjourned until the 2nd January.

At the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, the hearing was resumed of the summons against Mr. J. D. Humphreys for using a four-wheeled carriage on the 28th inst. without having a licence for it.

His Worship—Mr. Humphreys, I propose to recall Mr. Quincey as I want to get more evidence; then I shall call Sergeant Holt.

Mr. Humphreys—I don't object, your Worship, but remember that the case for the police was closed.

His Worship—Exactly so.

Mr. Humphreys—Of course my statement would help a good deal to qualify any statement of the police; however, I don't object, your Worship.

His Worship—I have full power to recall witnesses at any stage.

Inspector Quincey—Your Worship, I have one more witness besides Mr. Holt.

His Worship—Why didn't you tell me so the other day?

Inspector Quincey—I did not know until afterwards. I now ask your Worship to grant me permission to amend the summons.

His Worship—What for?

Inspector Quincey—I said in my evidence that I saw Mr. Humphreys driving on various other occasions. I know another occasion on which Mr. Humphreys drove in that carriage.

His Worship—Perhaps you want to take out a fresh summons: you charge Mr. Humphreys with using the carriage on the 28th December. What do you want to do?

Inspector Quincey—I shall be glad if your Worship will allow me to amend the charge; there is another day—2nd December.

His Worship—Do you want to go on with this specific charge or not?

Inspector Quincey—If you do not grant permission to amend the charge I must take out a fresh summons.

His Worship—Do you mean that you cannot prove the offence on this particular day.

Inspector Quincey—Oh no; I have two more witnesses.

His Worship—Do you wish to withdraw this summons?

Inspector Quincey—No, I wish to go on with this case and amend the charge besides.

His Worship—How amend the charge?

Inspector Quincey—Mr. Humphreys was driving on another day.

His Worship—You have him for the 28th already.

Inspector Quincey—Very well, I will go on with this case.

His Worship—You can do as you like afterwards.

Inspector Quincey, recalled, said—The carriage was on the west side of the Hongkong Dispensary; it was not exactly opposite. I was on the other side of the road at the time. I was near Lane and Crawford's. I am certain this carriage was a four-wheeled one and was drawn by two ponies.

His Worship—I want you to be clear on that point. It was not a carriage with two wheels drawn by one pony?

Witness—No.

His Worship—Did you see the carriage draw up there?

Witness—No, it was there when I arrived.

His Worship—Did you see it go away?

Witness—No.

His Worship—Did you see Mr. Humphreys in the carriage?

Witness—No.

His Worship—Do you know whether it was Mr. Humphreys' carriage or Mr. Kennedy's carriage?

Witness—I am not certain.

His Worship—You told me the other day that the carriage is kept at Mount Richmond.

Witnese—I think I said a similar one.

His Worship—No, you did not say that.

Witness—I cannot swear that the carriage I saw is kept at Mount Richmond.

His Worship—What connection is there between the carriage and Mr. Humphreys'?

Witness—The carriage was opposite defendant's office.

In answer to Mr. Humphreys witness said the carriage was opposite the office door.

Detective-Sergeant Holt said.—On Saturday, the 28th ult., about 11.30, I was in Queen's Road Central near the Supreme Court. I saw a four-wheeled vehicle standing outside A. S. Watson & Co.'s premises in Queen's Road Central, opposite the office. It was a four-wheeled carriage, and two ponies were attached to it. I did not see Mr. Humphreys there; a Chinaman was in charge. I do not know whose carriage it is. I have seen Mr. Humphreys drive a similar one.

Mr. Humphreys—What is the colour?

Witness—Dark.

Mr. Humphreys—Was it a mail phaeton?

Witness—I could not say; it is an ordinary four-wheeled vehicle.

Mr. Humphreys said he would not press for a description of the vehicle.

His Worship—Mr. Quincey, are you prepared to swear that this is the same carriage that you have seen Mr. Humphreys driving about in?

Inspector Quincey—I am not prepared to swear it is.

P. S. Baker said—At 11.10 on the 28th inst. I saw Mr. Humphreys drive from west to east in Queen's Road. He stopped outside the Hongkong Dispensary. It was a four-wheeled carriage and was drawn by a pair of ponies. A mafoo sat behind, and he took hold of the ponies' heads when the carriage stopped. Mr. Humphreys afterward alighted and went up to a horse ridden by a European groom. He then went into his office.

This concluded the case for the police.

Mr. Humphreys then called his witnesses.

His Worship—At present the evidence shows that you were there with the carriage; you can rebut that if you like.

Mr. Humphreys—That I was driving a carriage and pair?

His Worship—Yes. It now lies on you to show that it was not your vehicle or that you had a licence.

Mr. Humphreys—I have no licence, and I propose to show that there was no four-wheeled carriage of mine there, and that I did not drive a four-wheeled carriage belonging to me or anybody else.

James Crossland said—I am Mr. Humphreys' groom at West Point. I remember Saturday, 28th December. I did not get out the four-wheeled carriage and pair on that date; the carriage had been at Mr. Kennedy's since about 18th December. Since then there has been no four-wheeled carriage at Mount Richmond. As far as I know Mr. Humphreys has not driven a pair of ponies since 16th December, because he has not two ponies to drive.

Mr. Humphreys—That is a very good and sufficient reason.

Witness—One pony was killed on the 16th after an accident. I would not swear how defendant went to the Dispensary on the 28th, but I think he rode on horseback. I have not seen him drive any carriage belonging to anyone else for a long time. As far as I know, he did not drive a vehicle belonging to anyone else on the 28th.

In answer to the Magistrate witness said—I rode down to the Dispensary on the 28th, but I will not swear that I saw Mr. Humphreys come up to the horse. There are now two-wheeled leaps at Mount Richmond. I am not certain, but I think he rode on horseback to the office on the 28th. I would not swear this; I did not see him leave the house. I do not know what time he left, and I did not see him come back.

Mr. John Kennedy said—The defendant sent his four-wheeled carriage to me on the 18th December in order to have new tyres put on it. It has been with me ever since. On the 28th December it was all to pieces. One of the defendant's carriage ponies broke its back on the night of the 17th inst. Once since then he hired a single grey pony. Mr. Belilios has a mail phaeton, and I think there is one at Jardine's refinery.

This concluded defendant's case.

His Worship—There is a great conflict of evidence in this case, so I do not express an opinion as to whether it is proved that Mr. Humphreys was driving a carriage on that day or not, but it is certainly not proved to my satisfaction that Mr. Humphreys was driving a carriage of his own, and that he had not taken out a licence for it. Therefore I dismiss the summons.

A DEVICE FOR MINIMISING THE EFFECTS OF COLLISIONS AT SEA.

ADMIRAL MAKAROFF'S INVENTION.

The narrow escape the *Grafton* had of colliding with the *Nicolai I.* when the former was entering the harbour on Sunday causes special interest to attach to a device adopted on the Russian vessel for minimising the effects of collisions and which is of such a nature that if the *Grafton* had drifted broadside on to the *Nicolai's* ram no harm would have resulted beyond possibly a little denting. This device is the invention of Admiral Makaroff, who was a witness of the disastrous collision between H.M.S. *Anson* and the Italian

emigrant ship *Utopia* in Gibraltar harbour on the 17th March, 1891, when the *Utopia* sank with great loss of life. The question of preventing such lamentable accidents has engaged the Admiral's attention and the result is the invention of a guard, or *mouselière* as he calls it, which he has adopted on his own flagship and which he maintains should be applied to all vessels, merchantmen as well as men-of-war, having straight stems or rams, and even on fiddle head bows it would be an advantage. Had the *Craithie* had such a guard on when she struck the *Elbe* the sinking of the latter and the lamentable loss of life that occurred would have been prevented. The following, which we take from the Paris edition of the *New York Herald*, explains the invention :—

Malta, 10th April.

The Russian warship *Vladimir Monomach* has lately been fitted with a Makaroff ram-guard for her passage through the Suez Canal.

This action was taken in view of a previous collision there between another warship and a merchant vessel, which latter was sunk. I accordingly took the opportunity on the recent calling at this port of Rear-Admiral Makaroff, commanding the Russian squadron in the Mediterranean, for the purpose of docking his flagship, the *Imperator Nikolai I.*, prior to his sailing for the Pacific, to interview him in connection with his ram-guard.

FOR MINIMIZING COLLISIONS.

Admiral Makaroff very courteously explained to me the details of his ram-guard. He said he had devoted some of his leisure hours to the study of minimizing the result of collisions at sea, especially those in time of peace between warships having a ram.

In the case of the latter, Admiral Makaroff conceived various ideas, but the result of his experiments showed that the more simple method of fitting the ram with a guard or hood made of heavy rope and matting, was the most practical and effective.

In order to test his plan, Admiral Makaroff prepared two models, one of a ship with a ram, and the other of a section of a ship's side. Both models were floated in a tank, the one with the ram being put in motion by means of a rope having a weight attached, to give a uniform speed. The experiments were carried out with the ram-guard on and with the bare ram.

While the guard was on the impact of the ram could not more than indent the side of the ship supposed to have been struck, but when the guard was removed the ram actually pierced the other vessel.

Such results having convinced Admiral Makaroff of the effectiveness of his method, he decided to provide all the ships of his squadron with the ram-guards described.

Admiral Makaroff does not claim to have arrived at the absolute means of preventing the dangers of collisions at sea, and he said he would be glad if others would elaborate on his or other methods to reach the desired goal. He himself pointed out some of the shortcomings to which his present ram-guard is liable, such as the loss of speed, however small, to a vessel fitted with a rope guard, on account of the larger surface presented, or to the guard getting unshipped from any cause whatsoever.

AN IMPROVED GUARD.

He is at present devising another guard that would not be subject to any of the inconveniences mentioned, but which would afford as good protection in the event of collison.

His plan is to case the vessel's ram with a detachable metallic guard built in sections, each section—which would be filled with cork or other material—to be of thinner steel as the point is reached. The result of the impact of a ram so protected should be that the guard would flatten itself against the sides of the vessel collided with, which, instead of being ripped open and sunk before anything could be done to save her, would probably not be more than indented.

The subject merits attention, and from the results of the rope guard experiments it can safely be presumed that had the *Camperdown* been fitted with such a guard we would not have had to deplore the dire calamity which befel H.M.S. *Victoria* off the Syrian coast.

The *Japan Gazette* understands that the *Edgar* has been ordered to sea to search for the missing *Bonnington*.

MURDER AND SUICIDE AT SHAUKIWAN.

Soon after nine o'clock on Thursday night an Indian policeman named Sunt Singh, No. 545, murdered a young Chinaman at Shaukiwan Station and afterwards blew his own brains out. The murderer has been in the Police Force about eleven years and for some time past has been very friendly with the Chinaman, whose name is Pau Koo Loi, the son of the keeper of a tea house at Shaukiwan. How the quarrel which culminated in the tragedy arose is not known, as no one knew that they were anything but friendly. The murder took place in the stables of the station and the first to raise an alarm was a Chinaman who heard a rifle shot. He rushed to the stables and saw Pau lying on the floor bleeding, and his coat was in flames. The injured man said "Sunt Singh shot me," and he was then removed with all possible speed to the hospital, but he died before he got there. Inspector Hall and a European constable were in the station and when informed of the tragedy they at once hurried round to find the murderer. While searching for him they heard a couple of rifle shots and proceeding to the Indians' bath room they found him lying on the floor dead. He had put a bullet through his head. When the Chinaman was murdered he must have been very close to the Indian, as the firing of the shot ignited his jacket and most of it was burnt. The bullet entered his left side, penetrated his back, pierced a clean hole through the window, and at length lodged itself in the store room of the station. The murderer certainly premeditated his crime as he took down his own rifle, but as he could not find any cartridges of his own he took some out of another man's pouch which was hanging up in a room. An inquiry will of course be held. The murdered man was to have appeared at the Police Court on the 3rd inst. to prosecute a coolie for throwing stones into his house. The case was called on in the ordinary way, when Inspector Hall said "Your Worship, the prosecutor in the case was murdered last night." The coolie was accordingly discharged.

A EUROPEAN FINED FOR GIVING FALSE EVIDENCE.

At the Magistracy on the 3rd inst., before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Chau Ching, a 'ricksha coolie, was charged with assaulting John Minhinnett, overseer in the Public Works Department. At the conclusion of the case the complainant himself was put on the charge sheet and fined $50 for wilfully giving false evidence, while the coolie was discharged.

John Minhinnett said—I am an overseer of the Praya Reclamation Works. On the 2nd inst. at 8.45 p.m. I got into a 'ricksha opposite the New Victoria Hotel. Defendant was the driver. I told him to take me home to 3, Arsenal Street. When I got into the 'ricksha defendant took me down a side street near the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on the east side. He dropped the 'ricksha and turned round, having left the shafts. He did not leave the shafts, but turned round in the shafts. He came up to me and put both hands into my waistcoat pockets. I got out of the 'ricksha then. Defendant picked up the shafts and made away shouting "Policeman." I went after him and arrested him outside the monument in front of the City Hall. I was too surprised to seize him at first. My overcoat and under coat were not buttoned. I was perfectly sober. I brought the defendant to the station with the assistance of a police constable. I did not lose sight of the 'ricksha. I was taken not more than ten feet down the lane, which is pretty well lit. I had not touched the man. Nothing was taken from me; there was nothing in the pockets into which defendant put his hands. No other 'ricksha or person was about.

Defendant asked no questions.

P.C. Singh said—On the 2nd inst. at 9.5 p.m. I heard someone call out "Policeman" four times in Queen's Road Central, near the City Hall. I ran towards where the cries came from. I saw defendant drawing a 'ricksha and walking ahead, followed by the last witness, in Queen's Road Central. I asked the defendant what was the matter. He did not answer. Complainant told me to take defendant to the station. I was going east and defendant was coming towards me. Complainant was three yards behind the 'ricksha, and was walking. I did not see a 'ricksha or the complainant come out of the lane. The position of the parties led me to suppose that the 'ricksha was coming from Wanchai. Complainant appeared to have been drinking. He was walking steadily. The cries of "Policeman" came from Queen's Road, near the City Hall. At that time I was about in the middle of the lane. Whilst in the lane I saw no 'ricksha. I ran right up to the 'ricksha. Complainant was not talking to the defendant. Defendant did not appear to be walking away from the complainant. I saw a piece of oil cloth torn on defendant's 'ricksha. When I saw the parties complainant had not got hold of defendant.

John Minhinnett, recalled, said—The last witness is the police constable who arrested defendant, and he was coming from west, about twenty feet away, when I saw him. Defendant went towards the monument with the 'ricksha on leaving the lane. I had hold of defendant and was bringing him back to the Central when I met the police constable, who was "doubling up" and caught hold of the 'ricksha to stop him. The police constable was not in the lane when I was there. It was not two minutes between the time I was assaulted and the time I saw the policeman. Had the policeman been in the lane he must have seen the assault.

P.S. Hannah said—I was in the charge room when Mr. Minhinnett brought defendant up last night. Complainant was not drunk, but had been drinking. He complained of an assault with intent to rob.

Defendant said—Complainant engaged my 'ricksha near New Victoria Hotel. On approaching the bank he told me to go faster. I went as fast as I could. On approaching the City Hall he stopped my 'ricksha, got out of it, kicked me, and tore my oil cloth. I stood and told him to stop. I called for the police. I told the policeman I was half killed. Complainant paid me no fare. I did not go down the lane at all.

His Worship discharged the defendant and fined Minhinnett $50 for wilfully giving false testimony.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT IN THE CHARGE ROOM.

THE VOLUNTEER AND ANOTHER MAN'S RIFLE.

At the Magistracy on the 31st Dec. before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, Thomas Meek, of Queen's Road Central, was summoned for behaving in a noisy and disorderly manner in the charge room of the Central Police Station, whereby a breach of the peace might have been occasioned.

Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Inspector Kemp said—About 8.10 a.m. on the 26th instant I was on duty in the charge room of the Central Police Station. Defendant called there and asked me for the return of a rifle which he left there on the previous day. I told him I could not return the rifle until the case against Mr. Alves had been decided. The rifle was standing in a recess of a door about eight feet away, and defendant could see it. He stepped up, took possession of it, and said "I would like to have it because I want it to-day to go on a shooting expedition." I told him to put the rifle back. He said "I want the rifle, and if I can't get it I want someone to take it from me." I took the rifle from him. He offered no resistance and left the charge room. The case referred to about Mr. Alves was disposed of by your Worship on Saturday.

This was the evidence for the prosecution.

Defendant said—The substance of the Inspector's evidence is correct. The reason I pressed the point was that on the first day I laid the rifle down it was taken from behind me. I spoke feelingly and firmly to the Inspector; I admit I was a bit incensed at the time.

His Worship—Why you should have been I do not know.

Defendant—I am a Volunteer and have a perfect right to carry a rifle.

His Worship—Yes, but this was not your rifle; you took it from Mr. Alves in the street because he had not a licence.

Defendant—I took it with the constable's permission.

His Worship—Alves had already committed an offence; the rifle was in his possession at first, and you took it from him in order to shelter him.

Defendant—I did not want to shelter him.

His Worship—He had already committed; the offence.

Defendant—Well, I am a Volunteer, and therefore I have full power to carry a rifle.

His Worship—Not under such circumstances; you had no right to carry a rifle in order to shelter him. You had no business to go up to the charge room like that and demand back the rifle.

Defendant—I thought it was wrongly taken from me and I wanted somebody to be responsible for it.

His Worship—You should have sent an application to the Captain Superintendent of Police. The rifle was in the possession of the police, and they are responsible for it. and you ought not to have gone and demanded it like you did.

Defendant—I did not demand it exactly.

His Worship—Now if that rifle had been at Scotland Yard, London, would you have gone there? Of course you would not. You try to draw a distinction between the police in this colony and the police in London. You know you would not have done this if the rifle had been in Scotland Yard. Simply because this is a Crown colony you think you have a perfect right to do these things. You will have to enter into your own recognizances in $30 and find two sureties of $15 each to be of good behaviour for six months. Please remember in future that it is not your place to go into the charge room and demand things in that fashion. The rifle was in charge of the police and you had no right to touch it at all; you are only exposing yourself to ridicule by going up to the station and doing things of this sort.

FAREWELL GATHERING AT THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' INSTITUTE.

An interesting gathering of members of the Royal Naval Christian Union and others took place at the Soldiers and Sailors' Institute on Thursday afternoon. On opening the proceedings Mr. Robins (H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel*) said that it gave those who had worked to bring about the gathering great pleasure to see so many who had responded to the invitations, and they took the opportunity of expressing their thanks for the kind and untiring efforts that had been used to strengthen and cheer the members of the society and all those who were desirous of living a Christian life. Solos were then sung by Messrs. Rayner (*Victor Emanuel*), Way (*Centurion*), and Williams (*Mercury*), and short addresses delivered by Messrs. Boswell (*Alacrity*), Walke (*Redpole*) and Vinton (*Pigmy*), each of the speakers expressing sincere thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had been so kind to them during their stay on the station; now they were saying good bye it was with hearts full of mingled joy and sorrow, joy at the thoughts of going home to see their friends and sorrow to leave those behind.

The company then partook of tea and much pleasant chat ensued, all expressing their pleasure at such a gathering. The spread reflected great credit on the caterer (the manager of the institution)

After tea the meeting was resumed, when the Rev. St. A. Baylee gave a short address, in which he expressed his pleasure as seeing so many present who were banded together. He strongly urged those returning home to strive to influence for good those with whom they came in contact, and to endeavour to discountenance the use of bad language whereever they had an opportunity, more especially by their example on board their ships. The Rev. G. Williams (Union Church) followed; although suffering from the effects of a bad cold he was pleased to be present that afternoon; he felt sorry to part with so many bright smiling faces, but urged the seamen to combine and seek each other's good, assisting the weaker ones on board their ships; they should, he said, concentrate their efforts and by combination and concentration they would accomplish much good. Then followed Capt. Brown (Kowloon), who said he felt highly honoured at being in such a gathering; he was always rejoiced to see so many smiling faces; in bidding them God speed and a pleasant voyage he felt that each had helped the other very much. The singing of the hymn "Farewell faithful friends" and the benediction brought a very pleasant meeting to a close. Among the invited guests present were the Rev. St. A. Baylee (*Victor Emanuel*), Rev. G. Williams (Union Church), Mrs. Maitlow, Miss Johnson, Miss Eyre, Miss Baker, and Messrs. Tarn, Trew, Gibbs, Meirs, Row, and Captain Brown.

THE CITY HALL.

The annual meeting of the shareholders in and subscribers to the City Hall was held in the Library of the Hall on the 31st Dec. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. L. Dennys (Secretary), N. A. Siebs, H. N. Mody, H. L. Dalrymple, and B. Layton.

Mr. DENNYS read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as the report and accounts have been printed and circulated I will ask you to take them as read. Two changes in the *personnel* of the Committee have taken place since the last annual meeting, the late Chairman (Mr. Keswick) having left the colony and Mr. Siebs having accepted the post upon the Committee rendered vacant by the regretable death of Mr. Hoppius. The report will I hope be considered satisfactory, as the balance at credit upon current account on the 30th June last was about $640 in excess of the amount in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer upon the 30th June, 1894. It must, however, be remembered that the expenses connected with the installation of the electric light in the ball rooms and ante-room have to be deducted from the balance in hand on the 30th June, 1895, and that a further sum will be required should it be decided to extend the electric lighting to the theatre when the local Electric Company is in a position to supply the necessary power. With reference to the suggestion that the library in this room should be amalgamated with the new public library, I may mention that the question was fully considered at a special meeting of this Committee, who represent approximately 80 per cent. of the shareholders in the City Hall, and although desirous of helping the scheme in every way the Committee felt that they were not in a position to undertake the maintenance of a circulating library, being without the necessary staff, and without the accommodation at their disposal to enable them to carry it on properly. It is also doubtful whether the Committee's position as trustees for the shareholders in the City Hall would justify them in accepting the duties that would be thrown upon them. The primary object for which the City Hall was founded was to provide a building suitable for entertainments of all kinds, and although when first opened the building was considered somewhat too large for the requirements of the colony, the increase in the foreign community that has since taken place now necessitates the use of the whole space at our disposal when there is any large popular gathering. The fact that the Institution has succeeded in weathering the financial trouble that beset it during the early years of its existence is encouraging, and I am glad to say that the City Hall may now be considered fairly self-supporting and with the continued growth of Hongkong there is reason to hope that both the preference and ordinary shareholders, who subscribed $71,600 for the erection of this building as far back as 1869, may eventually receive annually some small return. Nothing specially worthy of further remark has occurred in connection with the Institution since the last annual meeting, but the Committee would be happy to accept and consider any suggestions any shareholder or subscriber present may have to offer. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts as presented I shall be pleased to answer any questions that might be put.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. DALRYMPLE seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. I am sorry so few of the public have attended.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following report from the Mining Manager on work done at Punjom during the month of November:—

August Shaft. 200ft. Level.—This point has received our best attention and I am pleased to say the prospects continue encouraging. The east or hanging wall of the ore body we were piercing at date of my last report has been reached and drives have been started to go north and south on the course. So far, the ore is of low grade and I am now inclined to think that the best part of the chute of payable ore is still further to the south. This will be proved in a few weeks. The north drive on the course of Gillies' reef has been resumed, and 14 feet driven, making its total length from the No. 2 crosscut 90 feet. The reef has become very much broken and is very poor. We shall run this drive up under the chutes of ore found in the Mill Gully Tunnel with all possible speed in hope of proving them at this depth and opening in that section of the mine. The new shaft has been connected, securely timbered, and a substantial chamber or *plat* made. The necessary rails, including points and crossing, have been laid, and everything put in good working order, preparatory to putting a drive south under the western chute of ore now being worked at and above the Intermediate Level.

Intermediate Level—This point continues to yield a large quantity of ore for the mill and will do so for some time yet. The stopes are without change to notice. Of course you will see by an earlier part of this report that the new shaft has connected with the 200ft. level. A drive has been begun off this shaft to connect with the west chute of ore we are working on the east and west reefs and has already been driven 17 feet. I need not tell you this drive will cross the course of "Phillip's Leader" at a point about 30ft. to the west or where any payable ore had been found on it hitherto, and will be a further test for it. I am hopeful that we shall find payable ground on it there.

110ft. Level.—We have not yet been able to resume work in the crosscut to go out to the course of Gillies' reef at this level, owing to all the miners being fully employed elsewhere. We will attend to it as soon as possible, however.

New Leader.—There is no change to report here, the various stopes, etc., fully maintaining their output of ore for the mill. They will continue to do this for some months yet.

Drivage.—The total drivage for the month is 608ft. 9in.

Ore mined 1,004 tons

made up as follows:—August Shaft 825 „

New Leader 179 „

Milling.—This was carried on during 27 days, crushing 1,004 tons of ore for a yield of 500 ozs. 12 dwt. of smelted gold.

General.—The usual attention has been given to all work coming under this head. The whole of the concentrates and tailings have been fenced in so as to secure them in case of floods; new houses have been built for our Kling coolies, and a new tram-line laid down on strong trestle work to connect the new shaft with mill. A second European engineer for the mill has been engaged and will soon be here for duty. My letters will have told you he will be employed in superintending the milling at night and to assist Mr. Jolly generally.

Gold Stealing.—I regret to say the loss of gold we suffer through the dishonesty of our Chinese and native workpeople has become a serious matter and calls for immediate and determined action. Hence I am increasing our police force and engaging two Europeans as night watchmen. We are also putting a strong fence all round the principal workings with suitable gates for ingress and egress of the workpeople. I fear we shall always suffer more

or less from this cause unless the punishment meted out to offenders by the Government is made much more severe and adequate.

Labour.—This continues fairly plentiful, but of late I notice a falling off in the supply of Chinese coolies, which I attribute to the precautions we are taking to prevent gold stealing.

Health.—This is fairly good.

Rainfall.—During the month the total rainfall was 13 5/16 in.

THE SHANGHAI SPINNING COMPANY (JAPANESE).

The first general meeting of the Shanghai Spinning Company (Shanghai Boseki Kaisha) took place at the Bankers' Assembly House, Tokyo, on the 3rd December. Mr. Nakamigawa Hikojiro, of the Mitsui Bank, was in the chair, and there were present above 280 persons. Mr. Asabuki Eiji undertook the task of explaining the various measures submitted for the approval of the assembly. The first subject of discussion was the constitution of the company, the draft of which was adopted without any change. The next business related to the salaries of the directors and assessors. On this topic, too, the draft was approved in its entirety. The scale of salary adopted was 300 yen per annum for each of the ordinary directors; 500 to 1,500 yen per annum for a special director, upon whom will devolve the principal control of business at the head office in Tokyo; 3,000 to 5,000 yen per annum for each of the Directors and assessors in Shanghai; and 150 yen per annum for an ordinary assessor in Tokyo. The election of officers was then proceeded with. To avoid the trouble of voting, Mr. Imamura Seinosuke, a well-known banker, proposed the following names, and his proposal was adopted:—

Mr. Nakamigawa Hikojiro	Directors.
Mr. Masuda Takashi	
Mr. Komuro Sankichi	
Mr. Asabuki Eiji	
Mr. Uyeda Yasusabino	
Mr. Suyenobu Michimasa	Assessors.
Mr. Umakoshi Kyohei	
Mr. Hamaguchi Kichiyemon	

The assembly then approved the disbursement of some 2,500 yen by the promoters for floating the scheme. Leave was given for the purchase of a site for the factory in the English settlement at Shanghai at a price of about 30 yen per *tsubo*, the total area being 4,600 *tsubo*, and the aggregate cost 140,000 yen. Several contracts entered into with foreign and Japanese machine-makers were also endorsed. Mr. Naruse Ryuzo, late of the Osaka Commercial Academy, received the appointment of Chief Manager of the company. He is one of the earliest graduates of the Tokyo Commercial College, and for some years discharged the duties of *Kanji* (manager) and Professor in that institution, after which he proceeded to Europe to complete his studies, staying several years in Belgium. On his return he was appointed President of the Osaka Commercial Academy. The company may be congratulated on having obtained the services of a man of his information and business ability.

The largest shareholder of the company is Mr. Mitsui Takayasu, with 4,777 shares. He is followed at some distance by Mr. Komuro Sankichi, with 860. Among other principal shareholders we may mention Messrs. Shibusawa Eiichi, Wakanigawa Hikojiro, Masuda Takashi, Fujita Denzaburo, Oye Taku, Toyokawa Ryohei, Watanabe Hiromoto, with whom are many persons well known in the field of Japanese commerce.—*Japan Mail.*

TAIKOO ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The fifth annual athletic sports in connection with the Taikoo Sugar Refinery were held on the Taikoo Recreation Ground on New Year's Day. The events, with the exception of one, were of course confined to the European employés of the firm, and the competitors must be congratulated upon the excellent display they made and the genuine sport they provided for the hundreds of invited guests who surrounded the field. The employés at Taikoo are well provided with means for indulging in athletics and also recreation of a milder form, and that they take every advantage of the consideration extended them and fully appreciate the kindness of the employers was conclusively shown in the capital form they displayed at this athletic meeting. Not only was the sport good, but there was plenty of fun, and this is just what a holiday crowd wants. The football extravaganza, for instance, was intensely amusing and many a hearty laugh was provoked thereby. There were ten aside and the players were dressed in all kinds of eccentric and fancy costumes, the get-up of Messrs. Paterson and McLaughlin, who were in female attire, being exceedingly grotesque. The players themselves did not know which side they competed for and the result was a most laughable confusion. The game was throughout a rollicking medly of Association and Rugby football, with occasional "brutal" scrimmages which were almost worthy of Harvard and Yale contests, and if a man did happen to make a mistake he promptly received a whack on the head from a vicious looking policeman. Considering the fierce heat of the sun's rays the wonder is that the players were able to sustain their pantomimic performance as long as they did, and they deserve the greatest credit for their amusing show. The whole of the remaining events afforded considerable interest; in fact there was not a dull moment on the field during the whole of the afternoon. The management very thoughtfully provided swings and see-saws for the children, and an Aunt Sally was also stuck up on the ground for all and sundry to shy at. Music was provided by the band of the Hongkong Regiment and three pipers in Highland costume also gave several selections. At the conclusion of the sports the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. Poate.

The following is the list of officers:—

President:—Mr. Herbert Smith.

Committee:—Messrs J. Blake, J. Lochead, R. Aitken, C. Blake, T. Grimshaw, E. Burke, T. Shand, G. Buckland, G. Knobloch, F. Shuster, J. Waddell.

Starter and Handicapper:—Mr. R. Aitken.

Clerks of the Course:—Messrs J. Blake and T. Grimshaw.

Timekeepers:—Messrs C. Blake and T. Shand.

Hon. Sec. of Taikoo Club:—Mr. E. Burke.

Hon. Sec. of Sports' Committee:—Mr. J. Waddell.

The following were the results:—

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.—Handicap. Prize presented by the Kowloon Dock staff.

FIRST HEAT.

F. White (6 yards) 1
J. Gillespie (6 yards) 2
Four starters.

SECOND HEAT.

W. Armstrong (2 yards) 1
G. Kirkpatrick (scratch) 2
Three starters.

FINAL.

W. Armstrong (2 yards) 1
J. Gillespie (6 yards) 2
Four starters.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE.—35 to 40 years. (Handicap). Prize presented by K. O.

J. Gillespie 1
A. Cunningham 2

ONE MILE BICYCLE RACE.—(Handicap). Prize presented by Mr. Jack A. Young.

A. McKirdy 1
R. Stuart 2
Five starters.

120 YARDS FLAT RACE—(Handicap). 41 years and upwards. Prize presented by Mr. W. Fukui.

N. McDonald 1
G. A. Buckland 2
Three starters.

HIGH JUMP.—Prize presented by Mr. A. Pow.

H. Arthur, 4 feet 9 inches 1
W. Armstrong, 4 feet 8 inches ... 2

220 YARDS FLAT RACE.—(Handicap). Prize presented by Mr. Chang A. Tong.

W. Armstrong (2 yards) 1
D. Currie (8 yards) 2
Three starters.

TARGET PRACTICE.—Prige presented by Mr. Lochead.

H. Summers 1
Eight competed.

OBSTACLE RACE.—Prize presented by Mr. W. Ramsay.

J. Gillespie 1
Three starters.

FOOTBALL EXTRAVAGANGA: 10 aside.

All the players 1

VISITORS' RACE.—Prize presented by Taikoo Club.

R. F. Lammert 1
L. Rose 2
Eleven starters.

120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, 6 flights. (Handicap).—Prize presented by Mr. Tai Woo Loong.

W. Armstrong (scratch) 1
G. Kirkpatrick (7 yards) 2
Six starters.

CHINESE CHARIOTS RACE.—Prize presented by Mr. A. Pow.

J. Gillespie and R. Stewart 1
Five pairs entered.

TWO MILE BICYCLE RACE (Handicap).—Prize presented by M. B. K.

A. McKirdy (35 yards) 1
F. E. Shuster (scratch) 2
Five started.

80 YARDS SACK RACE.—Prize presented by Mr. G. Buckland.

W. Armstrong 1
F. White 2
Seven starters.

HALF MILE FLAT RACE (Handicap).—Prize presented by China Sugar Refinery Staff.

A. McKirdy (25 yards) 1
Six starters.

CONSOLATION RACE.—Prize presented by Mr. J. Blake.

F. W. White 1

The Champion Cup President's prize presented to the winner of most events was won by W. Armstrong.

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

The monthly competitions for the Captain's Cup and Sweepstakes were played off at the Happy Valley on the 4th to 6th instant, and resulted in two popular wins. The links were in good order, having been benefited by rain during the early hours of the first two days, but with the exception of the scores returned by the winners of the two events the cards put in do not exhibit generally very good play.

The next competitions for the MacEwen Cup, Rifle Brigade Bowl, Bogey Cup, Sweepstakes, &c., take place from Friday, the 10th, to Monday, the 13th instant, when it is hoped members will turn out in force. The final possession of the "Bowl" will be decided on this occasion.

Subjoined are the scores returned in the competitions referred to above:—

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. E. A. Ram	93	13	80
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	92	10	82
Dr. J. Bell	99	15	84
Capt. Eccles, R.B.	89	2	87
Mr. C. H. Grace	103	15	88
Mr. H. G. Tooker	106	18	88
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	107	18	89
Lieut. Frowd, R.N.	108	18	90
Mr. G. Stewart	95	5	90
Mr. H. W. Slade	110	18	92
Mr. W. A. Duff	106	12	94

SWEEPSTAKES.

Dr. J. Bell	97	15	82
Mr. C. H. Grace	103	15	88
Mr. W. A. Duff	106	12	94

CRICKET.

THE CRICKET CLUB v. THE NAVY.

In addition to being numerically weaker than they generally are at this season of the year, the Navy were unfortunate in being unable to put their full strength in the field on Saturday, when they had their first meeting with the Cricket Club. With Sir R. Arbuthnot and H. M. C. Elliott away the team could hardly be called representative, and they were further handicapped by the fact that several of their players were palpably short of practice. Under these circumstances it not very surprising that the fairly strong team got together by the Club proved too strong for them. For the rather crushing nature of their defeat they have, how-

ever, in some measure, to blame themselves, Powlett having won the toss and neglecting to avail himself of the almost inevitable advantage of batting first, an error of judgment for which his side had to pay heavily.

C. M. Firth and C. V. N. Percival opened the innings for the Club and so successful was their partnership that, in spite of several changes of bowling, the score had mounted to close on the century before Firth succumbed to one of Shelford's deliveries for a well-played 43. A few runs later Percival, who had been playing good cricket, was bowled by Oldham with the last ball of his first over for 58, compiled as far as we saw without a chance. Hitherto the runs had not come at a great pace, but from this time the hitting was more free, and with the score at 180 for 4 wickets Sercombe Smith decided to close the innings in the hopes of getting the Navy out in the hour and three-quarters that remained for play. Hancock and Johnston carrying out their bats for 26 and 10 respectively.

The batting of the Navy does not call for much detailed comment as, with the exception of Shelford (an old China cricketing hand returned to the scenes of former triumphs), none of the batsmen offered any serious resistance to the bowling of Hancock and Sercombe Smith; and when he had been disposed of by Firth for 34 the innings was soon brought to an end for 76, leaving the Club winners by 104 runs.

During the afternoon the band of the *Centurion* played a pleasing selection of music upon the ground by the courtesy of Admiral Buller, Captain Login, and the officers of the flagship.

The following is the score and analysis:—

THE CLUB.

C. M. Firth, c Greenfield, b Shelford	43
C. Percival, b Oldham	58
E. Mant, c Shelford, b Oldham	24
R. H. Hancock, not out	26
A. S. Anton, b Penny	11
Surg.-Major Johnston, not out	10
Capt. Baker-Carr, G. D. Campbell, T. Sercombe Smith, A. Anderson, R. F. Lammert } did not bat	
Extras	12
Total	187

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs	Maid.	Runs.	Wides	N.B.	Wicket.
Shelford	22	5	53	—	—	1
Greenfield	14	5	42	2	—	—
Penny	10	3	36	—	—	1
Lt. Powlett	5	1	17	—	—	—
Lt. Oldham	7	1	25	—	—	2

THE NAVY.

Lt. W. H. C. Thring, c and b Hancock	0
Lt. Penny, b T. Sercombe Smith	8
Dr. Peal, b Hancock	0
Lt. Commr. E. A. Grafton, b R. F. Lammert	8
W. M. Greenfield, b T. Sercombe Smith	7
Lt. F. A. Powlett, c G. D. Campbell, b T. S. Smith	10
Lt. A. H. Oldham, b Hancock	0
Lt. Bird, b Hancock	0
Lieut. T. S. Shelford, b C. M. Firth	34
Rev. H. O. Hughes, c Johnston, b C. M. Firth	3
Lt. W. H. James, not out	1
Extras	5
Total	76

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wicket.
Hancock	15	6	27	—	—	4
T. S. Smith	14	3	21	—	—	3
C. M. Firth	4.2	1	4	—	—	2
R. Lammert	4	—	19	—	—	1

OFFICERS R.B. v. OFFICERS R.N.

This match was played on 3rd Jan. and resulted in a victory for the Rifles. The following was the score:—

NAVY, FIRST INNINGS.

Lt. W. H. C. S. Thring, b Knox	35
Dr. J. H. Pead, b Alexander	14
Lt. F. C. Bird, b Alexander	4
Lt. A. H. Oldham, st Paley, b Knox	8
Lt. J. H. Powlett, c Eccles, b Knox	11
Lt. H. W. James, st Paley, b Knox	8
R. W. Skelton, c Paley, b Alexander	21
Lt. T. A. Shelford, b Alexander	1
G. R. Blunt, not out	7
Lt. Thomas, b Alexander	1
Com. Warrender, b Alexander	7
Extras	9
Total	126

RIFLE BRIGADE.

C. W. Knox, c Bird, b Shelford	35
S. E. Holland, c Thring, b Thomas	2
Capt. Baker-Carr, b Shelford	21
R. Alexander, b Shelford	0
Capt. Eccles, st. Peal, b Skelton	17
Capt. Fergusson, b Shelford	2
C. Percival, l.b.w., b Thring	0
Capt. Stewart, st Pead, b Shelford	15
G. Paley, run out	47
D. Power, c Shelford	0
Capt. Radclyffe, not out	8
Extras	24
Total	323

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

FIFTH CLUB RACE.

A slow but rather exciting race was sailed on Sunday, the 5th January, in a succession of light winds and calms with a moderate breeze to finish with. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round mark boat off Chung Hue, North Fairway buoy, mark boat off Chung Hue (leaving all to starboard) and home; 15 miles.

The following boats started:—First class—Payne, Royal Engineers; Dart, Dr. Lowson; Ladybird, Mr. Hastings; Erica, Mr. Denison; Meteor, Mr. T. W. Lammert; Princess, Mr. I. McKie.

Handicap class.—Arrow.

The second class was not represented.

The wind was fairly good at the start, but gradually lightened up on the way down to Chung Hue. The Meteor by keeping down the central fairway had the best of the tide and arrived first at the mark, with Princess and Dart close up, Payne, Ladybird, and Erica being not far behind. On rounding the flag boat each succeeding boat sailed a course a little further to the south-east than the one in front, Erica going about two points to windward of Meteor. On getting near Stonecutters Island the lee boats struck a north-east wind, which carried them well up the harbour. Dart and Erica started a luffing match up the south side of Stonecutters Island and when they crossed the harbour for the fairway buoy found they had a free wind for it. The buoy was rounded by the:—

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor at	1	31	2
Princess	1	31	45
Erica	1	36	30
Dart	1	38	44
Payne	1	43	15
Arrow	1	54	08

The Ladybird gave up at this point and went for a cruise. In the run down the second time to Chungh Hue the calms were again met with, but Erica was able to part company with Dart and Payne and join the Meteor and Princess. The lee mark was rounded at 2.25 by Princess, followed two minutes after by Meteor and at 2.31 by Erica. Dart and Payne followed at about 2.40. A light south wind carried the boats along for about a mile in the direction of Stonecutters Island, when the three leaders were becalmed in line, Princess being to the north, Meteor in the middle, and Erica to the south, about a quarter of a mile separating the outer boats. A north-east wind reached the boats at a little after 3 o'clock; the Princess being to windward of the other two had a good start, which she kept to the finish. Erica had a short south-east puff, which carried her across the bows of Meteor as the wind reached them and was able to get some sixty or seventy yards to windward and this order was kept to the finish:—

	H.	M.	S.
Princess	3	48	5
Erica	3	53	5
Meteor	3	55	10
Payne	4	8	30
Dart	4	15	30
Arrow	4	3	5

The marks gained up to date are:—

1st Class.

Erica	26	Dart	10
Princess	26	Payne	1
Meteor	11	Ladybird	1

2nd Class. Handicap Class.

She	40	Arrow	30

AMOY RACES.

FIRST DAY, 6th January.

We are indebted to the Cable Companies for the results of yesterday's races at Amoy:—

CONSULAR CUP (presented); value $100; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; entrance $5. Seven furlongs.

Major Thomas' Morrison, 11st, 11lbs.	1
Mr. Esher's Kindar, 10st. 0lb.	2
Mr. Boyd's Dunmore, 11st. 11lb.	3

Time, 1 min. 52 2-5th secs.

TRIAL STAKES; of $10 each, with $100 added; a forced entry for Amoy subscription griffins of this season; first pony to receive 70 per cent., second 20 per cent., and third 10 per cent.; weights as per scale. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr. Dryasdust's Field Marshall, 11st. 4lbs.	1
Mr. Cavendish's Mossyface, 10st. 12lbs.	2
Mr. Twoman's Cruiser, 11st. 4lbs.	3

Time, 1 min. 37 secs.

RACING STAKES; of $10 each, with $150 added; first pony to receive 70 per cent., second 20 per cent. and third 10 per cent. for all China ponies; griffins at date of entry allowed 5 lbs; weights as per scale. One mile and a half.

Mr. Twoman's Aristocrat, 11st. 1lb.	1
Mr. Dryasdust's Cobweb, 11st. 1lb.	2
Mr. Boyd's Dunoon, 11st. 1lb.	3

Time, 3 mins. 26 2-5th secs.

HAEKWAN CUP (presented); value $100; for all China ponies first raced as griffins at Amoy; weights as per scale; entrance $5. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Tom Green's Bluejacket, 10st. 12lbs.	1
Mr. Dryasdust's Cerberus, 11st. 4lbs.	2
Mr. Bruce's Satrap, 10st. 12lbs.	3

Time, 2 mins. 49 secs.

FOOCHOW CUP (presented); value $100; second pony $25; for all China ponies; weights as per scale; entrance $5. One mile and three-quarters.

Mr. Frank Percy's Red Knight, 10st. 12lbs.	1
Mr. Thomas' Otter, 10st. 12lbs.	2
Mr. Twoman's Revolver, 10st. 9lbs.	3

Time, 4 mins. 8 secs.

RACE COURSE PLATE; value $100; second pony $25; for Amoy subscription griffins of this season; winner of Trial Stakes or Haekwan Cup 5lbs. extra, or of both 7lbs. extra; weights as per scale; entrance $5. One mile.

Mr. Cavendish's Mossyface, 10st. 12lbs.	1
Mr. Dryasdust's Field Marshall, 11st. 4lbs.	2
Mr. McWillow's Scrambler, 10st. 12lbs.	3

Time, 2 mins. 15 secs.

KULANGSOO CUP; value $100; second pony $25; for all *bonâ fide* griffins at date of entry; entrance fee $5; weights as per scale. Three-quarters of a mile.

Mr. Tom Green's Bluejacket, 10st. 12lbs.	1
Mr. Boyd's Duniry, 10st. 12lbs.	2
Mr. Bazaar's Socialist, 11st. 1lb.	3

Time, 1 min. 38½ secs.

AMOY STAKES; a forced entry of $10 each for all ponies entered at this meeting; first pony to receive 70 per cent., second 20 per cent., and third 10 per cent.; weights as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Dryasdust's Shiney Villiam, 11st. 4lbs.	1
Mr. Esher's Kindar, 10st. 9lbs.	2
Major Thomas' Morrison, 11st. 11lb.	3

Time, 2 mins. 46 secs.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

GAME.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY PRESS.

SIR,—Game here is hardly so abundant as it might be, but still there are to be found a good many votaries of the gun, and to some of them the following questions may have arisen as well as to myself:—

Is the partridge found here the same bird as the francolin? From how far north do the woodcock come that visit this neighbourhood in the winter, and how far south does their flight extend?

Is the spring snipe here similar to the large spring snipe found near Shanghai and on the Yangtsze?

Has the sporting scheme for breeding pheasants and partridges on Hongkong, under the liberal patronage of the Government, proved a success? If not, why not?

Perhaps some of your readers will give their opinions on these points, which cannot fail to be of interest to every

SHOOTIST.

Hongkong, 2nd January, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—"Shootist's" letter in your issue of yesterdate raises some interesting points to local sportsmen.

There is no doubt in my mind that the partridge to be got here (with considerable exertion!) is the same bird as the "francolin," but of the woodcock I am not able to speak with any certainty as to the limits of its migratory flight.

What regard to the snipe, however, I do not think there is the least doubt that the spring and winter snipe are the same and are moreover the same birds as found in the north. On their southward flight in the autumn, in search of warmer climes, they pass over this neighbourhood about September. Shortly after they make their appearance here they may be found in Borneo and in the Straits—undoubtedly the same birds, which are thus evidently travelling south. The only difference between the spring and autumn snipe is that the former seems to be a better fed and consequently larger bird than when he passed through in the autumn.

The breeding of pheasants on this island is, as far as I can ascertain, not such a success as the attempt perhaps deserves. It is difficult to say why. But it is a significant fact that while the pheasants on the preserve at the south of the island do not seem to increase—in fact, the reverse—there have been more pheasants shot in the neighbourhood of Canton than has ever been known before. Query—Do the Hongkong pheasants follow the example of the master of a burnt out Chinese store and "go Canton?"

I would suggest, however, that had Aberdeen been chosen as the preserving ground instead of the island between Taitamtuk and Taitam (I give these boundaries subject to correction) the cover in the former place would have been found more suitable for that purpose.—Yours faithfully,

GUNNER.

Hongkong, 4th January, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Perhaps "Gunner" will allow me to differ from him on the subject of the identity of the spring and winter (or rather *autumn*) snipe. If he will take the trouble to measure a few specimens of both, he will find that the average length of the spring snipe is considerably greater than that of the bird found in this neighbourhood about September.

The pheasant breeding experiment *does* seem to have proved a failure: none but the most sanguine ever expected it to be otherwise! By the way, with regard to this game preserve, it would be much more simple if the game licences issued by the Government stated definitely where one *may* shoot, rather than where one may *not*. The wording of the licences is, to say the least of it, bewildering, and as far as one can gather, shooting is prohibited not only over the Tytam Peninsula, but also over all the ground between the Shaukiwan-Tytam Road and Cape D'Aguilar, or fully half the island as far as shooting is concerned.

It is a great pity that the rocky nature of the soil makes it impossible to breed and preserve the humble but homely "bunny." It was, I believe, tried some years ago on Stonecutters Island and, in spite of the fact that the artificial burrows made for them were unsuitable, rabbits were seen there for many years after they were originally laid down. The climate would therefore appear suited to them, and it is a well-known fact that they will breed anywhere, but it is unfortunate that nature has ordained that the rabbit shall spend a great part of his time underground, so that where he cannot burrow he cannot exist.—Yours faithfully,

SNAPSHOT.

Hongkong, 6th January, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The following note, which I understand is from the pen of a naturalist who resided for many years in the East, I publish in reply to "Shootist's" inquiries in your issue of 3rd inst. with regard to snipe:—

"*Note.*

"Six species of true Snipes are to be met with in this part of China, but the sportsman rarely comes across more than the following three varieties:—*Winter, Swinhoe, Pintailed.*

"1st.—*The Common or Winter Snipe.*—Is generally to be found on marsh or wet land from November to March. Length, bill to tail 10½ inches. Weight, 4 to 4½ ounces. Feathers, 14 in tail, all ordinary full sized.

"2nd.—*Swinhoe's Snipe*—Is one of the two migratory (spring and autumn) species; is to be found on grass land, in bean fields, &c. Spring, 15th April to 12th May. Autumn, August and September. Length, bill to tail, 11½ to 12 inches. Weight, 6 to 8¼ ounces. Feathers, 20 tail feathers, of which 8 central are ordinary or winter, 12 (6 on each side) are stiff and narrow.

"3rd.—*Pintailed Snipe*—Is the second of the two migratory species, is to be found frequenting the same haunts as the Swinhoes, and in their company, and migrates practically at the same seasons, that is to say, that in a day's bag both species will probably be found. Length, bill to tail 10½ to 11 inches. Weight, 5 ounces and up. Feathers, 26 tail feathers, 10 central are ordinary or winter, 16 (8 on each side) are very short, narrow and stiff, *with scarcely any web.* These webless feathers are the *pins* from which the bird is named.

"Winter birds have more white on the breast than, and are not so much barred under the wings as, the more popular migrants. *But the great point of distinction, always reliable, lies in the tail feathers.* Roughly speaking a *Pintail* is an ounce heavier than the *Winter*, and an ounce less than the *Swinhoe.*"—Yours faithfully,

SHA-TSUI.

Hongkong, 6th January, 1896.

A BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As the powers that be have always been ready in the past to avail of suggestions involving the passage of Ordinances which had for their object the regulation of something or other in the colony, I come forward with a proposal that a Board of Agriculture be formed. It might be a matter of some difficulty to get suitable men to accept the appointment, as the majority of Europeans here employ the most of their time in collecting the precious metals and I fear have little or no experience of farming.

The principal function of the Board would be to see that vegetable gardens conducted by Chinese in the neighbourhood of the City and more particularly to the eastward are run on European lines. If this were the case a great boon would be conferred on residents who avail of the Shau-ki-wan Road or that beautiful sylvan walk leading to the Blue Pool (alas! blue no longer) beyond the Racecourse, in search of fresh air and gentle exercise.

It is no uncommon sight on the nearest approach we have to the Bois de Boulogne to see more than one gentleman walking along with an independent air. I leave the reader to guess the reason, but I may mention it is unfortunately not because he is a millionaire. Or a smart trap may flit past the pedestrian with the occupants looking intently at the Channel rocks. Can you guess why? I know, but I do not like to tell.—Yours faithfully,

PEDESTRIAN.

Hongkong, 31st December, 1895.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In a letter which appeared in your issue of 1st inst. your correspondent "Pedestrian" advocates the establishment of a Board of Agriculture for the better regulation of certain matters in connection with the tillage of the soil of the colony. The attention of such Board, should it ever be established, and if not, that of the powers that be, ought certainly to be drawn to another custom of the Chinese residing or squatting on the land surrounding the Wongneicheong village in the Happy Valley, which is as great a nuisance to riding men and frequenters of the racecourse in the early morning as is the practice complained of by "Pedestrian" to evening strollers.

I allude to the burning of weeds which goes on with the utmost regularity during the training season. The smoke hangs over the racecourse, pollutes the fresh morning air, gets into the lungs of ponies and riders, and prevents owners at the rails from having an uninterrupted view of what their animals are doing. As a general rule it is impossible to distinguish the posts at the village end of the course, and sportsmen who assemble at the Happy Valley are unanimously of opinion that the nuisance should be stopped, if not altogether, at least until after 8 a.m., when the morning training is usually over. The matter is one outside the province of the energetic Clerk of the Course, and appears to be one for the Government to deal with. If the authorities remove this cause for complaint they will earn the gratitude of every owner, rider, and

MAN AT THE RAILS.

Hongkong, 3rd January, 1896.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS, 1895.

JANUARY.

1st.—Cape Cami Light exhibited for the first time.—Sports at Taikoo Sugar Refinery.

4th.—Death of the Crown Prince of Siam.

6th.—Fire at 230, Queen's Road.—The P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, while on the passage between Yokohama and Nagasaki, grazed a rock near Cape Mino and was beached; arrived at Nagasaki on the 14th.

7th.—Amoy Races, first day.—The King of Korea formally declared the independence of his kingdom.—M. de Lanessan, Governor-General of Indo-China, left Haiphong, having been recalled for divulging official documents.

8th.—Amoy Races, second day.

9th.—Haiphing captured by the Japanese.—Two Chinese concerned in an armed raid at Winglok Street, Hongkong, found guilty of murder at the Supreme Court and sentenced to death.—Amoy Races, third day.

10th.—Kaiping captured by the Japanese.

11th.—Arrival of Rear-Admiral de Beaumont, appointed to the command of the French Naval Division in the Far East.—Public meeting at Singapore to express approval of the resignation of the unofficial members of Council, Justices of the Peace, etc., in connection with the military contribution.

12th.—Fire at the *China Mail* office.—Children's treat at the Central Police Station.

13th.—Indo-China steamer *Taiwo* left Shanghai for Hankow and was wrecked on the Langshan Crossing.

14th.—Annual meeting of Punjom Mining Co., Limited; vote of want of confidence in the directors passed.—Court of Inquiry at Shanghai respecting the loss of the British ship *Sea Swallow* on 16th December.—Four houses in Nanking Road, Shanghai, burnt.

15th.—Annual mobilization of the Hongkong Garrison.

16th.—Prize day at the Diocesan School and Orphanage.

17th.—Prize day at Queen's College.—Prince Chow Fa Mahavajiravudh proclaimed Crown Prince of Siam.—General Wei Yu-kwei executed at Peking for cowardice.

18th.—Paper read by Mr. Justice Ackroyd before the "Odd Volumes" Society on Fines and Imprisonment.—Fires at 189, Queen's Road Central, and 15, Mercer Street.—Earthquake at Tokyo and Yokohama.

19th.—Tungchow-fu bombarded by the Japanese.

20th.—On the *Kaiser-i-Hind*, near Acheen Point, a Lascar jumped overboard and in trying to rescue him Mr. A. J. Cooper, the second officer, and an A.B. named Foster were drowned.

23rd.—Manila Exhibition opened.—St. George's Ball, Hongkong.

24th.—Launch of the gunboat *Quiros* built for the Spanish Government at Kowloon Docks.—Death of Prince Arisugawa of Japan.—Singapore Chamber of Commerce declined to nominate a member of the Legislative Council, in consequence of the military contribution dispute.

28th.—Accident to N. P. steamer *Victoria* at Moji.—Children's dramatic performance at Government House.

29th.—Yungching (Shantung) captured by Japanese.—The Winglok Street murderers Au Chun and Li Pong executed.—The Kanakui cotton mill at Osaka burnt.

30th.—Opening performance of the pantomime "Robinson Crusoe" by the A.D.C.

31st.—Outer forts of Weihaiwei captured by Japanese—Death of Mr. Albert Deacon, senior

member of the London Committee of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

FEBRUARY.

1st.—Explosion of a powder magazine at Takow.
2nd.—Weihaiwei citadel captured by Japanese.
4th.—*Tingyuen*, Chinese battleship, destroyed by Japanese with torpedoes.
5th.—Chinese cruisers *Laiyuen* and *Weiyuen* torpedoed by Japanese.
6th.—Fire at 73, Bonham Strand.
7th.—Island of Nito, Weihaiwei, captured by Japanese; destruction of the Chinese torpedo fleet.
9th.—Death of Mr. R. Fraser Smith.
10th.—Fire at 149, Queen's Road Central—Death at Singapore of Mr. R. Lyall, of Hongkong.
13th.—Surrender of island forts and remainder of Chinese fleet to Japanese at Weihaiwei.
14th.—Havildar Uramz Khan, of the Hongkong Regiment, fatally shot.
17th.—The Japanese fleet entered Weihaiwei.—The residence of Professor Milne, F.R.S., in Tokyo, burnt to the ground; the library and valuable instruments destroyed.
19th.—Arrival of the U.S.S. *Detroit*.
20th.—Hongkong Races, first day.—Fire in Wai Tak Lane.
21st.—Hongkong Races, second day.
22nd.—Hongkong Races, third day.
23rd.—Hongkong Races, off day.—Messrs. Hirlé and Sabot, engaged in putting up a telegraph line in Tonkin, attacked by pirates; M. Hirlé killed and M. Sabot carried off.
24th.—Heavy gale at Yokohama.
26th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—Prize day at the Victoria Home and Orphanage.—Presentation of Belilios medals at the Council Chamber to P.C. McEwen and Lai Yun Sing for gallantry in saving life.
28th.—Death of Captain the Hon. F. M. St. Aubyn, R.B.

MARCH.

1st.—H.E. the Governor publicly thanks the Police Force for its services during the plague and presents a silver shield and medals.—Final sitting of the Taipingshan Resumption Arbitration Board.—Collision on the Sanyo railway, Japan.
2nd.—Four houses burnt in Queen's Road West.—Inauguration of new waterworks at Hanoi.
4th.—Presentation to Mr. Justice Ackroyd by the officers of the Supreme Court.—Newchwang captured by the Japanese.
5th.—Li Hung-chang left Peking on his peace mission to Japan.—Presentation to Mr. G. Horspool, Deputy Superintendent of Police, on his retirement from the Service.
6th.—Mr. Justice Ackroyd left for England on his retirement after forty-one years' service.—Arrival of the U.S.S. *Machias*.
7th.—Outbreak of plague at Macao reported.
9th.—Photographic exhibition at the rooms of the Odd Volumes Society.
12th.—Meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council.—Annual meeting of ratepayers at Shanghai.
14th.—Imperial audience to the Foreign Ministers at Peking.
15th.—Dance given by the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.
16th.—Severe snowstorm at Shanghai.
17th.—Arrival at Saigon of M. Rousseau, the new Governor-General of Indo-China.
18th.—St. Patrick's Dance, Hongkong.
19th.—Foochow Races, first day.
20th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—Foochow Races, second day.
23rd.—Coolie strike at Hongkong in consequence of the enforcement of the lodging-house regulations.—Bombardment of the Pescadore forts by the Japanese.
24th.—Attempted assassination of Li Hung-chang at Shimonoseki; an armistice granted as atonement.
25th.—Serious fire in Bonham Strand.
26th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; the appointment of the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart to be Colonial Secretary announced.—Death of Mr. E. S. Smithers, the American Consul, at Kobe.
28th.—Public meeting at Hongkong to consider the coolie strike.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.
30th.—Conference at Government House in reference to the coolie strike.—Fire at 352, Queen's Road Central.—Koyama Toyotaro tried for the attempted assassination of Li Hung-chang at Shimonoseki and sentenced to penal servitude for life.
31st.—Volunteer church parade at Union Church.

APRIL.

1st.—A second public meeting held in reference to the coolie strike; the committee resigns and the meeting passes a vote of confidence in the Government.
2nd.—Opening of the new building for the Shanghai Public School by Mrs. G. Jamieson.
3rd.—Annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.—Opening of the Kowloon Institute by H.E. the Governor.
4th.—Termination of the coolie strike at Hongkong.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—Performance of the "Hymn of Praise" at the Theatre Royal.
6th.—Presentation of an address to Mr. D. Gillies by the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong.—Cricket dinner to the Hon. A. J. Leach, prior to his departure for Singapore.—Victoria Recreation Club Athletic Sports.—Second Performance of the Hymn of Praise at the Theatre Royal.—Fire at 1, Queen's Street.—Annual inspection of Shanghai Volunteers.
8th.—Grounding of the steamer *Polyphemus* on Jubilee Island.—The British steamer *Yiksang* seized by Japanese at Taku for having ammunition on board and taken to Sasebo, where she was released by the Prize Court, the implicating cargo being forfeited.
10th.—Explosion of an Armstrong gun at Woosung forts; forty officers and men killed or wounded.—Inspection of the Rifle Brigade.
11th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—Departure of Mr. Justice Leach for Singapore.—Fire at 144, Queen's Road West.
12th.—Hongkong Rifle Association Easter meeting, first day.—Presentation to Mr. Bruce Shepherd, Land Officer, by Chinese community, on his departure on leave of absence.
13th.—Hongkong Rifle Association Easter meeting, second day.—Presentation of colours to Hongkong Regiment.—Swedish steamer *Nora* wrecked at Woosung.
14th.—Imperial edict issued allowing Li Hanchang, Viceroy of Canton, to retire.—Fire at Senor Legarda's rope manufactory, Manila.
15th.—Hongkong Rifle Association Easter meeting, third day.
17th.—Tan Chun-lin appointed Viceroy of Canton.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—Performance of "The Magistrate" by the Hongkong A.D.C.—Treaty of Peace between China and Japan signed at Shimonoseki.
18th.—Fire at 31, Bonham Strand.
19th.—Arrival of Major-General Black.—Annual meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.—Farewell review of the Garrison by Lieut.-General Barker.—Inquiry into the grounding of the steamer *Polyphemus*.
20th.—Hongkong Sky Race Meeting.—Fire on the German steamer *Taicheong* at Amoy.
21st.—Ratification by the Emperor of Japan of treaty of peace with China.
22nd.—Resignation of the unofficial members of the Sanitary Board in consequence of the Government having appointed a Medical Officer of Health to be independent of the Board.
23rd. Immigration of Chinese from Macao and Hainan prohibited on account of the plague being prevalent at those places.—St. George's day celebrated at Shanghai by a fête.—Issue of a proclamation by the Emperor of Japan notifying the restoration of peace with China.—Gale at Chefoo.
24th.—Fire at 19, Jervois Street; a Chinaman burnt to death.—Seizure of the Lyaudet family by pirates at Port Wallut, Tonkin; their captivity lasted six months.—Fire on the M.M. steamer *Melbourne* at Saigon.
25th.—The British ship *Barcraig* left New York for Shanghai with kerosine; never heard of again.
26th.—Riot at Taipehfu on receipt of the news of the cession of Formosa to Japan.
27th.—Entertainment by the Canton A.D.C.—Severe gale at Tientsin.
29th.—Shanghai Spring Race Meeting, first day.
30th.—Shanghai Spring Race Meeting, second day.—Presentation to Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon, by the Police Force on his leaving the colony.—Immigration of Chinese into the colony from Swatow prohibited on account of plague.

MAY.

1st.—New Central Market, Hongkong, opened.—Shanghai Spring Race Meeting, third day.—Departure of Lieut.-General Barker.—Fire at 145, Winglok Street.
2nd.—Ratification by the Emperor of China of the treaty of peace with Japan.—The British steamer *Yiksang* released by Prize Court at Sasebo.—Marines landed at Tamsui for protection of the foreign settlements.
3rd.—Wreck of the steamer *Pekin* at Santi Point.
4th.—Two men fatally scalded on the ferry launch *Prudence*.
8th.—Ratifications of the treaty of peace between China and Japan exchanged at Chefoo, Japan relinquishing her claim to the Liaotung Peninsula in consequence of the opposition of Russia, France, and Germany.
9th.—Hon. T. H. Whitehead addressed the Colonial Party in the House of Commons on Hongkong affairs.—Chinese immigration at Singapore by vessels leaving or touching at Macao, Swatow, or Hainan prohibited on account of plague.
10th.—Tennis match (double) between Hongkong and Canton, won by Canton.—Departure from Yokohama of Hon. P. Le Poer Trench, Minister to Japan.—Issue of a Japanese Imperial rescript on the retrocession of Liaotung.
11th.—Tennis match (single) between Hongkong (Platt) and Canton (Wallace), won by Canton.
12th.—Arrival at Canton of H.E. Tan Chung-liu, the new Viceroy.—Loss of the Spanish steamer *Gravino* in a typhoon off the coast of Luzon; nearly a hundred lives lost.
13th.—The new steamer *Paknam*, belonging to the Messageries Fluviales de Cochinchine, wrecked near Penzance while going from Glasgow to Havre to take the berth for the Far East.
14th.—Marine Court of Inquiry into the loss of the steamer *Pekin*.—The steamer *Billiton*, with a cargo of kerosine from Langkut to Penang, burnt at sea; all hands lost.
15th.—Strike of butchers at Shanghai.
16th.—Meeting of Fire Insurance agents at Shanghai to establish a tariff of rates.—Café Chantant at the City Hall in aid of Kowloon Institute.—Seizure of a Chinese trading junk by Chinese Customs in British waters at Lyemoon.—Declaration of the independence of Formosa.
17th.—Arrival of Vice-Admiral Buller.—Collapse of the Shanghai butchers' strike.—Amalgamation of the Hongkong Choral Society and Musical Club.
19th.—Consecration of the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, Vicar Apostolic of Hongkong.
20th.—Meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce.
21st.—Collision at Nagasaki between the Japanese man-of-war *Naniwa* and the Shell liner *Turbo*; small damage.
23rd.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.
25th.—Governor Tang installed as President of the Formosan Republic at Taipehfu.—Shanghai Spring Regatta.
27th.—Admiral Fremantle relieved by Admiral Buller at Nagasaki.—Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. declines a silver inkstand tendered to him by the Government in recognition of his work as Chairman of the Permanent Committee during the plague.
28th.—Exhibition of the Pei Yu Shan light for the first time.—Anti-foreign outbreak at Chengtu commenced.
30th.—The Japanese landed near Kelung.—Collapse of part of the old Victoria Hotel; three Chinese killed.

JUNE.

1st.—Return tennis matches at Canton between Canton and Hongkong, won by Canton.—Collision at Chinkiang between the German steamer *Tritos* and the Indo-China steamer *Fooksang*.
2nd.—Formal handing over of Formosa to the Japanese representative by the Chinese re-

present tive on board ship off Kelung.—Great fire at Shibato-cho, Niigata; 2,400 houses destroyed and five persons burnt to death.

3rd.—Kelung captured by the Japanese.

4th.—Memorial brass to the late Mr. Hugh Fraser, British Minister to Japan, placed in St. Andrew's Church, Tokyo.

5th.—Presentation to Mr. C. H. Thompson by the Victoria Recreation Club.—The German steamer *Arthur* fired upon by the Chinese at Tamsui.—Looting by Chinese soldiers at Taipehfu and Twatutia; powder factory burnt.

6th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—The German steamer *Arthur* left Tamsui with Tang, ex-President of the Formosa Republic, on board.—Explosion of powder magazine at Taipehfu.

7th.—Death in London of the Sultan of Johore.—Presentations to Mr. C. F. A. Sangster by the choir and congregation of St. John's Cathedral, on his retirement from the position of organist.—The Japanese force arrived at Taipehfu.

8th.—First Gymkhana meeting of the season.—Treaty of Commerce between Japan and Russia signed.

12th.—Governor Creagh, of British North Borneo, left Labuan for England.

13th.—Destruction by fire of Messrs. Mourilyan, Heimann and Co.'s Godown, Yokohama.—The steamer *St. Pancras* lost on the Samarang Bank, Labuan.

14th.—Fire at 76, Jervois Street.—Installation of H.E. Sir C. B. H. Mitchell, Governor of the Straits Settlements, as District Grand Master of the Eastern Archipelago.—Arrival at Hongkong of the first consignment of the new British dollar.

15th.—Arrival of the German cruiser *Prinzess Wilhelm* at Hongkong.—Arrival of the Japanese Minister at Tientsin to resume his duties after the declaration of peace.

16th.—Lin Yung-fu, the Black Flag leader, demanded the withdrawal of the British guard at Anping; H.M.S. *Rainbow* landed eighty-five more men, making the total British force on shore 150.

19th.—M. Carrère, a French Customs officer who had been in the hands of Tonkin pirates for over a year, released.

29th.—Withdrawal of prohibition of Chinese immigration at Singapore from Swatow.

22nd.—Prohibition of Chinese immigration into the colony from Swatow removed.

27th.—The Indo-China steamer *Taisang* ran into the Praya wall while making for the West Point wharf.—Withdrawal of prohibition of Chinese immigration at Singapore from Hainan.

28th.—Discussion at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong on Engineering and Shipbuilding in the Far East.

29th.—The Admiral orders the withdrawal of the British land forces at Anping and Tainanfu, to the consternation of the community.

JULY.

1st.—Issue of the prospectus at Shanghai of the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Limited, the first cotton mill in China started by foreigners.—Explosion in the engine room of the captured Chinese warship *Kwangping* while on her trial trip near the Kinshui coast; five persons killed.

2nd.—Attack by bandits on the Roman Catholic Mission at Ho Yun, on the East River, Kwangtung.

6th.—Death of the Tartar General of Canton.

7th.—Outrage on Rev. Dr. Sheffield at Tungchow, near Peking.—Audience of the Japanese Minister with the Emperor of China.

8th.—First annual meeting of the Eastern Bimetallic League held at Shanghai.

9th.—The *Pingsuey*, the first steamer of the season with Hankow teas, arrived home.

10th.—The steamer *Birkhall* sunk at Woosung by the Chinese man-of-war *Wantai* running into her.—Entertainment by Mr. Brady in aid of the Kowloon Institute.—Arrival at Nagasaki of the captured Chinese ironclad *Chenyuen* from Port Arthur.

13th.—Presentation to Hon. H. E. Wodehouse by the Fire Brigade on his retirement from the office of Superintendent.—Second Gymkhana meeting.

14th.—Inauguration of the new buildings of the French Consulate at Shanghai.

15th.—Meeting of American citizens at Shanghai in connection with the Szechuen outrages.

17th.—Naval Court held at Shanghai to inquire into the sinking of the steamer *Birkhall* at Woosung.

20th.—Result of the poll taken in Hongkong to ascertain local opinion in connection with the home elections declared; Unionists 211, Liberals 55.

24th.—Severe typhoon in Japan; five foreign vessels driven ashore at Kuchinotzu.—Collision at Bangkok between the steamer *Gorgon* and Norwegian schooner *Raguhild*.

25th.—The body of Lieut. Ommanney, R.N., formed drowned at Shaukiwan.

26th.—Death of Dr. R. A. Jamieson, Shanghai.

27th.—Concert at Mount Austin Hotel in aid of the Alice Memorial Hospital.

28th.—Fracas on the M. M. steamer *Caledonien* at Kobe.—Arrival at Yokohama of Mr. G. M. Satow, the new British Minister to Japan.

29th.—Typhoon near Hongkong.—Fire at 34, Winglok Street and another in the enclosed Taipingshan area.

30th.—Prohibition of Chinese immigration from Macao and Hainan withdrawn.—General meeting of the newly formed Hongkong Philharmonic Society.

31st.—Death of Sir Thomas Wade at Cambridge.—Great heat in Shanghai.

AUGUST.

1st.—Kucheng massacre; eight ladies, one male missionary, and one child killed, another child dying of its wounds subsequently.—Bank rate of interest on fixed deposits at Hongkong reduced to four per cent.

2nd.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Tamar* for service as receiving ship at Hongkong.

3rd.—Seizure of a junk in British waters near Pokfulum by Chinese Customs.

4th.—Funeral at Foochow of the Kucheng victims.

5th.—Public meeting at Shanghai to consider the situation in connection with the Kucheng massacre.—Fire at 70, Jervois Street and 245, Queen's Road Central.—Indignation meeting at Amoy on the Kucheng massacre.

6th.—Indignation meeting at Foochow on the Kucheng massacre. Attack on the Wesleyan Mission Hospital at Fatshan.

7th.—Prize day at Belilios Public School.—Presentation of the Royal Humane Society's medal to Mr. W. Stopani at the Victoria Recreation Club.

8th.—Loss of the E. & A. steamer *Catterthun* on the Seal Rocks, near Sydney, on her voyage to Hongkong; large loss of life.—Indignation meeting at Hongkong on the Kucheng massacre.

10th.—Official inquiry into the outrage in the British waters at Pokfulam by Chinese Customs officials.—Indignation meeting at Tientsin on the Kucheng massacre.

12th.—Loss of the C. N. steamer *Soochow* on the North-east Promontory, Shantung.

13th.—The European members of the Kucheng Commission leave Foochow.

16th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council; despatch fixing the military contribution at 17½ per cent. of the revenue laid on the table.

17th.—Farewell concert by Mr. Brady at the Theatre Royal.—Third Gymkhana meeting.

18th.—The *Toyohashi Maru* arrived at Taku from Japan with 1,000 Chinese prisoners.

19th.—Visit of the French gunboat *Lutin*, to Yochow, on the Tinting Lake.—Excitement at Sandakan in consequence of the appearance in the harbour of Mat Salleh, a Badjow who had previously given trouble to the Government, with thirty five native craft manned by a hundred of his followers.

21st.—After obstruction caused by the Chinese officials objecting to Europeans being present at the inquiry, the Kucheng Commission commenced work.—Arrival of Li Hung-chang at Peking.

22nd.—French and Chinese telegraph lines connected at Moncay.

24th.—Wreck of the American ship *Henrietta* at Satoura while on a voyage from Yokohama to Kobe.—Arrival at Bangkok of M. de France, the new French Minister to Siam.

25th.—Presentation of a testimonial to Dr. Marques at the Club Lusitana.—Arrival at Hongkong of H.M.S. *Pique*.

27th.—Departure of H.M.S. *Leander* for home.

28th.—Capture of Changwha, Formosa, by the Japanese.

29th.—Imperial decree issued relieving Li Hung-chang of the Viceroyalty of Chihli and ordering him to do duty at Peking as Manager of the Imperial Chancery.—Attack on a Foreign railway official at Shan-hai-kwan. The Japanese steamar *Yachiyo-maru* burnt at Tsuruga; six lives lost.

30th.—Earthquake at Hongkong and Swatow.

SEPTEMBER.

3rd.—Destructive fire at Wuchow, Kwangsi.

4th.—Typhoon in Formosa.

5th.—Storm at Shanghai.

6th.—Wreck of the British barque *Satsuma* on North Chusan. The P. & O. steamer *Verona* in a typhoon near Nagasaki; the chief officer injured.

7th.—Fourth Gymkhana meeting.—Funeral of the late Sultan of Johore.

8th.—Stranding of the O. & O. steamer *Belgic* near Mela Ledge while making Yokohama on her voyage from San Francisco; Mr. Beckman, second officer drowned.—Fire at Foochow; 200 houses burnt.

10th.—Exchange of the ratifications of the new Russian treaty with Japan.

12th.—First meeting of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League.

13th.—Singapore declared free from cholera.

14th.—The steamer *Ntau* left Singapore for Nagasaki; not heard of again.

15th.—Assault on a party of Europeans at Kowloon City.

17th.—Execution of seven of the Kucheng murderers.—Hon. Commander Hastings visited Kowloon City to attend the trial and punishment of the ringleader in the attack on foreigners on the 15th September.

18th.—Typhoon in the Formosa channel.—Execution of nine of the rioters concerned in the Chengtu disturbances of May.—Collision at Bangkok between the British steamer *Kongsee* and German steamer *Donar*.

25th.—A junk fired upon by a Chinese Customs cruiser in British waters off Aplichau.

27th.—Presentation of plague medals to Hongkong Police.—Victoria Recreation Club's Aquatic Sports, first day.

28th.—Gale at Swatow.—Victoria Recreation Club's Aquatic Sports, second day.

29th.—Decree issued degrading Liu, ex-Viceroy of Szechuen, in response to the British ultimatum.

30th.—The Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co., Limited, resolved to reduce the capital from $1,600,000 to $1,200,000 and to return $5 per share to the shareholders.

OCTOBER.

4th.—The Japanese expedition for the South of Formosa left Kelung.—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart elected Rector of the College of Medicine for Chinese.

5th.—Fire at 162, Hollywood Road.—Concert at Mount Austin Hotel in aid of the funds of the Alice Memorial Hospital.

6th.—A Norwegian seaman named Johann Gunderson murdered in Hongkong harbour.

8th.—Emeute at Seoul and murder of the Queen in the Palace.—Liberation of the Lyaudet family after six months' captivity with the Tonkin pirates.

10th.—The Japanese expedition for South Formosa left the Pescadores.—The O. & O. steamer *Belgic* floated.

12th.—Concluding Gymkhana meeting.

13th.—Statue of the late Dr. Muller unveiled in the grounds of the Imperial University at Tokyo.—M. Rousseau, Governor-General of Indo-China, left Haiphong for France.

14th.—Explosion on the Chinese trooper *Kungpai* at Kinchow; 550 persons killed.—The American ship *William H. Macy* run into by the British steamer *Isis*, in the Uraga Channel.

15th.—Fire on the steamer *Wieland* at Singapore.—Takow bombarded by the Japanese.

16th.—Concert in aid of the funds of the Benovolent Society at Mount Austin Hotel.

18th.—Rev. W. W. Cassels consecrated at Westminster Abbey as Bishop of the Church of England in Western China.—The Volunteers went into camp at Stonecutters' Island.

19th.—Annual meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club.—Presentation to Mr. C. F. A. Sangster by the solicitors of the Supreme Court in recognition of his services in the Registry.
20th.—The British steamer *Strathnevis*, from Tacoma to Hongkong, broke her tail shaft when seven days out; much anxiety caused by her not being heard of until the 9th December, when a sailing ship reported that she was returning to Tacoma under sail.—French Vice-Consulate at Tonghing opened.
21st.—The Douglas steamer *Thales* stopped and searched by the Japanese man-of-war *Yayeyama* between Formosa and Amoy; the Japanese Government afterwards apologised—Execution at Kucheng of fourteen of those implicated in the massacre.—Public meeting at Hongkong in connection with the Public Library.—Occupation of Anping by the Japanese.
22nd.—Presentation to Mr. C. F. A. Sangster, Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court, by the staff of the Registry, on his retirement.
23rd.—Occupation of Tainanfu by the Japanese.
25th.—Death of Ma Pi-iu, Governor of Canton.
26th.—The Kucheng Commission returned to Foochow after an absence of seventy-four days.—Address presented to Lieut.-Colonel Barrow, of the Hongkong Regiment, on his departure from the colony.
27th.—Six hundred coolies left Hongkong by the night steamer *Powan* for Canton to take part in an intended rising, which proved abortive.—The British ship *Avoca*, from Calcutta to Boulogne, burnt at sea, near Sumatra.
28th.—Shanghai Autumn Race Meeting, first day.—Death of Prince Kitashirakawa at Tainanfu.—Volunteer camp of exercise at Stonecutters' Island closed.
29th.—Shanghai Autumn Race Meeting, second day.—Colonel Barrow, of the Hongkong Regiment, left for India to take up the appointment of Assistant Adjutant-General at Rawalpindi.
30th.—Shanghai Autumn Race Meeting, third day.—Fire on the American ship *Wandering Jew* at Hongkong.
31st.—Payment in London of the first instalment of the Chinese indemnity to Japan.—Liu Yung-fu the Black Flag chief, arrived, at Canton from Formosa, whence he had fled incognito.

NOVEMBER.

2nd.—Coronation of His Highness Ibrahim, Sultan of Johore.
3rd.—Reception by the Governor-General of Formosa at Tainanfu in honour of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan.
4th.—Arrival of the O. and O. steamer *Belgic*, after being aground near Yokohama.—Death of Mr. Louis Mendel.
5th.—Treaty between Japan and Brazil signed at Paris.
6th.—Banquet given to Sir Nicholas O'Conor at Tientsin on his retirement from the office of British Minister at Peking, having been appointed to St. Petersburg.
7th.—Five ringleaders of the Kucheng massacre executed at Foochow.—Promenade concert in aid of winter relief of the London poor, on the Volunteer Parade Ground, Hongkong.
8th.—Convention for the retrocession of the Liaotung Peninsula to China by Japan signed at Peking.—Execution of three leaders of the abortive rising at Canton.
9th.—Arrival at Yokohama of the U.S. cruiser *Olympia*.
13th.—A boat belonging to H.M.S. *Edgar* capsized at Chemulpo; forty-eight lives lost.—The Norwegian steamer *Nanking* wrecked near Chefoo.—The Scottish Oriental steamer *Taichow* arrived at Singapore in tow, having broken her piston rod while on a voyage from Bangkok to Hongkong.
14th.—Sir Nicholas O'Conor, the retiring British Minister, had an interview with the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce.
16th.—The Japanese ship *Inaho Maru* wrecked on a reef in Kelung harbour.
18th.—Armed robbery at 106, Praya West.
21st.—Fire at 111, Praya West.
22nd.—Secret society riots at Bangkok.—Collision at Woosung between the P. & O. steamer *Rohilla* and the blue funnel steamer *Hector*.—Armed robbery as 125, Wellington Street.—Annual meeting and smoking concert of the Odd Volumes Society.
23rd.—Concert by the Hongkong Philharmonic Society.
24th.—The British ship *Lillian J. Robbins* towed into Saigon, having been dismasted in a typhoon on the 2nd November.
27th.—Death of Mr. Poon Pong.—Opening of the session of the Hongkong Legislative Council.
28th.—Political *emeute* at Seoul.
29th.—St. Andrew's Ball.—Hongkong fired in the Interport Shooting Match; score: Singapore 934, Shanghai 903, Hongkong 897.—Newchwang handed over by Japanese to Chinese.

DECEMBER.

3rd.—The steamer *Bonnington* left Yokohama for Moji; never afterwards heard of.
5th.—The Sasebo Docks opened.—Mr. Byron Brenan, the Consul at Canton, having been appointed a special commissioner to inquire into the conditions of British trade in China and Japan, had an interview at Government House, Hongkong, with a number of gentlemen interested in trade.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.
6th.—Issue of an Imperial decree sanctioning the construction of a railway from Tientsin to Lokaw Bridge near Peking; also the construction of a line from Lokaw Bridge to Hankow if capital can be raised for it by Chinese merchants.
11th.—At Shanghai Capt. Winslowe, of H.M.S. *Spartan*, Lieut. Baker-Baker, and several sailors decorated with medals by Miss Jamieson for services in H.M.S. *Brisk* at Witu, West Coast of Africa, in 1890.
12th.—Five hundred houses destroyed by fire in Saiouyimashi, Tokyo.—Hongkong Regatta, first day.
13th.—Hongkong Regatta, second day.
14th.—Meeting of Hongkong Legislative Council.—Military Contribution discussed.
15th.—Arrival of the American Commission at Chengtu, to inquire as to the riots, after making the journey from Peking overland.—Dedication of the German Concession at Tientsin.
16th.—Fire at 100, Praya West.
17th.—Fire at 247, Queen's Road Central.
18th.—Annual Meeting of the Hongkong Benevolent Society.
22nd.—Chinese public meeting to protest against the light and pass regulations.
23rd.—The Tung Wah Hospital committee wait upon the Governor, who suggested various improvements in the management of the Hospital and also spoke strongly about the allegation that the Chinese were subjected to class legislation.
24th.—Fire at 7, Chik Chan Lane.
26th.—Performance by the Hongkong A.D.C. of "Dandy Dick."
29th.—Arrival of H.M.S. *Grafton*.—Celebration of the Jubilee of the firm of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.
30th.—Fire at 38 and 40, Queen's Road West.

SERIOUS OUTBREAK AT ICHANG.

THE BRITISH CONSUL STONED.

Ichang, 23rd December.

A rather serious outbreak occurred here on Wednesday, the 18th, which luckily was nipped in the bud by the prompt action of the Consul in signalling to the *Esk* for a landing party and in dealing with the native officials. Wednesday was to have been quite a gala day, as the men of the *Esk* were having sports on ground kindly granted by the Rev. H. Collins of the American Mission. The Ichang community was out in force as the day was fine. Crowds of Chinese were everywhere and everything seemed to be going along nicely when a sad occurrence happened. Accidentally a *weiyuan* in the Customs was hit by a bullet from an air gun. Instantly all was commotion. The ladies were hurried home and the sports postponed. We had hopes the people would disperse quietly, but instead of doing so the sad event was used as a pretext to give vent to the spite and ill-will always existent in the breast of the students, literary and military. Soon there was a howling mob. The Consul and others were stoned and followed off the grounds. The mob came all the way to the Consulate, smashed in the door leading to the Commissioner's house, entered his ground, and broke some windows. Stones were also thrown into the Consulate grounds, and the back door of the Rev. W. Deans' was nearly smashed down. As soon as the howling was heard and the mob seen the ladies were hurried off to the *Changho*. The Customs staff was armed and kept the Customs quarters. A party of marines and bluejackets was landed from the *Esk* and marched to the Consulate. Through the energy of the Consul the officials were roused and the mob dispersed. Native soldiers were stationed all about the settlement. The ladies and children slept on board the steamer all night, while the gentlemen guarded the property on shore. Next day, although crowds collected, all was quiet and by the late afternoon the ladies returned home at the Consul's request. In the city the Church of Scotland Mission was threatened, but a guard of soldiers has been stationed at every chapel.

Good proclamations have been issued by the *Hsien*, the *Fu*, and the *Chéntai*. The officials are evidently doing all in their power to keep the peace. In another ten days the students all depart, so we look for quiet times again. We cannot be thankful enough a gunboat was in port, for it was nothing but the prompt landing of the men that dispersed the mob. If no gunboat had been here we would undoubtedly, as on a previous occasion, have been houseless and wanderers. We give all praise to the Consul and Captain Barton for their prompt action, and tender thanks to the officers of the *Changho* for their kindness to our wives and children.

AN INTERVIEW WITH AN EYE-WITNESS.

Shanghai, 31st December.

Through the courtesy of a passenger by the *Yuenwo* who was an eye-witness of the unfortunate accident at Ichang, we have gained the following particulars.

On Saturday, 21st December, the sailors of H.M.S. *Esk* at midday held some athletic sports, comprising racing, jumping, boxing, etc., etc. The weather was all that could be wished and the sports were proceeding in a most satisfactory manner; the whole of the European community was present, including all the ladies, and thousands of Chinese enjoyed the proceedings as much as the foreigners.

While the various competitions were taking place a shooting gallery was largely patronised, open to all comers both foreign and native at a charge of five cents for ten shots, the weapon used being a Morris tube in one of the gunboat's rifles. The target which was eighteen inches square was erected at a distance of about fifty yards in front of a small wall, and undoubtedly for the safety of onlookers it was not sufficiently protected. At about 3 p.m. a Chinese employed on the gunboat *Esk*, a British subject, took the rifle and fired at the target, but unfortunately missing it he hit a native who was standing near, a high official in the Customs, one who was highly respected by foreigners and Chinese, and who spoke English fluently. The bullet penetrated the eye and death was instantaneous; had the bullet struck any other part in all probability it would have had no effect.

After the catastrophe the crowd of natives immediately commenced to insult all foreigners and a riot seemed imminent and inevitable. A rumour was at once spread by the Chinese that the foreigners intended to kill a Chinaman as a fitting ending to the afternoon's sport, and the threats of the rabble increasing the foreigners as quickly as possible returned to their houses, which they reached without injury. About half an hour later the students, who had come down from the city, agitated for a riot, which they successfully carried out by smashing the windows of all the foreign houses. The gentleman who fared worst of all was Mr. Holland, the British Consul, who received a nasty wound on the cheek from a stone thrown at him. At this stage of the proceedings it was deemed advisable that the whole of the foreign population should take refuge on board the steamer *Changwo*, which was ready under steam to render assistance, and though all that could be done was done it was pitiful to see the ladies and children making their way to the steamer. Within five minutes after all were safely on board a body of marines landed from the gunboat to protect

property and the British Consul with the Customs officers on duty, who were the only foreigners remaining on shore. This at once caused a stampede among the natives, who fled as rapidly as possible, threatening to return during the night and set fire to all foreign houses.

The marines remained on shore for two days, but no further trouble took place. The big mandarins hearing that the *Esk* intended bombarding the city called on the British Consul and pleaded that such an action should not take place, to which the Consul replied that nothing would be done if peace were at once restored. The Chinese demanded the delivery to them of the Chinaman who fired the bullet, but as he is a servant of the British Government and a British subject the captain of the *Esk* refused to hand him over and is awaiting further instructions from his superiors.

The unfortunate accident has undoubtedly created a very bad impression and the Consul has forbidden missionaries to enter the city except at their own risk.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE OPENING OF HUNAN.

The two following papers, which have been sent to us (*N. C. Daily News*) by a valued correspondent at Hankow, explain themselves. They show that there is a pro-foreign party even in Hunan; and they give advice as to the opening of the province which is the more valuable because it is very practical. Mr. Carles, the British Consul at Hankow, is facilitating the presentation in the proper place of Yi Wei's petition for the opening of Hunan to foreign intercourse:—

AN APPEAL TO THE MINISTERS OF THE FOREIGN POWERS TO COMBINE FOR THE OPENING OF A TREATY PORT IN HUNAN.

(*By a Hunanese.*)

The writer ventures to suggest to the Ministers of the various treaty powers the desirability of opening a port for international commerce in the province of Hunan, a favourable place for which is Yingtien, a dependency of the district of Siangyin in the said province.

The reason why the people of Hunan are adverse to the project of international intercourse within the boundaries of their native province lies in the fact that no one has taken the step to explain to the former the advantages accruing therefrom. Hence we find that one and all declare that harm will befall Hunan if such an event were to be permitted in that province. Another reason for this sort of obstructiveness in the people of China is because the dividing line between the common people and the officials is too strictly defined, whereby the former have no means of making known their needs to the latter and facilitating concerted action amongst the two great classes which constitute the Chinese nation; and Hunan is no exception to the rule.

When the late Governor of Kwangtung, Kuo Sung-tao, returned from Great Britain (after a term as Chinese Minister) to his native province of Hunan, one of his first projects (for its regeneration) was to bring about the opening of the place to international commerce; but he was prevented from doing so by the strong opposition and libellous denunciations of his fellow officials. The writer was a constant inmate of His Excellency's household, having been tutor for many years to his Excellency's sons. From his long intercourse with his Excellency the writer was enabled to form his ideas of the advantage of international commerce and amenities. And so, in after years, whenever the writer happened to return to his own native town to Yingtien, he frequently seized the opportunity of explaining to his fellow townsmen the essays on the advantages, etc., of international intercourse and commerce for China which had been written by the late Governor, so that the people of Yingtien and vicinity have all, more or less, a knowledge of what foreign intercourse means, and that an interchange of trade with foreign nations brings a lot of good to the country without causing any harm to it. This has been further accentuated by the eagerness recently of the people of Yingtien to bring about a practical demonstration, to which end they have urged and empowered the petition to the officials and make known to the world their desire to make their town a treaty port.

In April, 1892, therefore, the writer went to Wuchang and repeatedly petitioned H.E. Chang Chih-tung, Viceroy of the Hukuang provinces, on the subject; but so far has received no rescript, favourable or otherwise, to his petitions. At the present moment the desire and anxiety of the people of Yingtien to make their town a treaty port of call for steamers may be likened to the desire and anxiety of the people of a drought-cursed land for a refreshing rainfall. Unfortunately, however, petitioning the local officials on such a subject has been so much labour lost.

On the 15th of the last moon (1st November) the writer drew up a paper addressed to Sir Robert Hart, begging the latter to support and recommend him and his friends as the proper people to be charged with the duty of opening Yingtien to foreign commerce. The paper in question was sent viâ Tientsin by the Sench'ang postal Agency on the above date. The purpose of the writer now in addressing this appeal to the various Ministers of the foreign treaty powers is to request their co-operation in this good work; bring about the consummation of the wishes of the people of Yingtien, Hunan; and finally to urge upon Sir Robert Hart, on behalf of the writer and his friends, the importance of speedy action in the matter.

YI WEI,
an officer decorated with the Plain Blue Feather, 5th brevet button, and unattached expectant Assistant Magistrate of the 1st class.

THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THE OPENING OF HUNAN TO FOREIGN INTERCOURSE.

(*By a Hunanese.*)

The writer begs to be permitted to present to your Excellency certain suggestions as to the best methods for the opening of the province of Hunan to foreign intercourse, and the necessity and importance of doing so first by international commerce and, finally, by means of missionary chapels.

1.—In opening Hunan to foreign intercourse care should be taken from the outset *not* to do so by first establishing missionary chapels, etc. The reason for this is because the libellous placards of Chou T'ieh-chên ("True-as-Steel Chou,"—the *nom-de-plume* of the notorious Chou Han) have been disseminated and posted throughout the whole province, and they have raised the fire of prejudice amongst the people to such a pitch that the latter will not tolerate for a single moment the sight of a missionary chapel planted in their midst. Hence the right way of proceeding in the matter should be first to establish a treaty port of call for steamers and international trade. Then when foreigners shall have congregated in this treaty port in large numbers and the place have become prosperous by means of this trade, the people round about will be made to acknowledge and believe in the advantages of foreign intercourse. Then should be the time for the establishment of missionary chapels to exhort the people to good deeds, when there will be little doubt but that large numbers of the people could easily be converted.

2.—In selecting a treaty port in Hunan it would be highly inadvisable to make the provincial capital such a port, owing to its floating population; the very large number of the unemployed; and the rowdies and the loafers who congregate there at the bid and call of every interested person anxious to create a disturbance or mob riot. Hence to choose Changsha as a treaty port would bring much harm and do no good. The plan would be to select a spot of strategic importance accessible for steamers as the place to inaugurate the opening of Hunan. From this as a starting point, and a gradual advance interiorwards, the leavening of the whole province will be easily and speedily accomplished.

3.—The town of Yingtien in the jurisdiction of Siangyin is distant from the provincial capital, Changsha, about 200 *li* (sixty-two miles). The above-named town is on the highway connecting with the provinces of Yunnan and Kueichou on the west; Kwangtung and Kwangsi on the south; and on the north is the Tungting lake. In a word, Yingtien can be truly said to be one of the keys of Hunan. Although its water communication is not very peep, still it is free from sandbanks and shoals to obstruct navigation. It is just the place for a port of call for steamers and contains decidedly more advantages than Changsha for such a purpose.

4.—The writer would therefore suggest that the various Ministers of the foreign treaty powers approach the Tsungli Yamên on the subject and recommend the said Yamên to memorialise the Throne for the opening of Yingtien as a treaty port in Hunan. As a protection, at the commencement, against the invidious assaults of mobs from outside, the writer suggests the appointment of a responsible native of Yingtien, to whom shall be deputed the power to make arrangements with the notables and gentry of the town for the organisation of a sufficient body of the young men of the place, as a militia regiment, whose duty shall be for the special protection of foreigners against hostile countrymen. The next step would be to employ only natives of the town for the construction of the port so as to make it accessible for steamers. Plenty of employment being thus given to the people of Yingtien and vicinity, it stands to reason that the advent of foreigners and the opening of a treaty port will be most popular amongst the inhabitants of the town. They will do their utmost to assist the people who have been the cause of providing them with work and prosperity.

YI WEI,
an officer decorated with the Plain Blue Feather, 5th brevet button, and unattached expectant Assistant Magistrate of the 1st class.

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE KOREAN QUEEN.

SENTENCE OF THE GUILTY PARTIES.

The following telegrams from Seoul appear in the Japanese papers:—

Seoul, 28th December.

A man named Boku-sen has been convicted of being the murderer of the Queen on October 8th last; he is alleged to have been assisted by two other Koreans named Li-shiu-kai and Inshakuzaku. Boku-sen was a servant in the employ of a Japanese resident. All three men have been sentenced to strangulation.

Seoul, 29th December.

The three men found guilty of the murder of the Queen were strangled last night. It was proved that Boku-sen killed the Queen with a sword and carried the corpse to the rear of the palace, where he poured oil upon it and set fire to it.

Seoul, 29th December.

The leader of the October riot at Seoul, one Li-do-tetsu, has been sentenced to death, while other Koreans who had been arrested have been found not guilty. The sentence declares that the evidence showed that foreigners were largely concerned in the riot.

THE "ISIS"-"W. H. MACY" COLLISION.

The Naval Court of Inquiry, opened on the 27th December in H.B.M. Court at Yokohama, into the circumstances attending the collision between the British steamer *Isis* and the American ship *William H. Macy*, was concluded on the 28th, the Court being composed of Mr. John Carey Hall, H.B.M. Consul and Assistant Judge, President, Captain Thomas Leigh, master of the steamer *Japan*, Captain Richard Morgan, master of the steamer *Port Adelaide*, Naval Assessors, and Mr. Arthur Hyde Lay, Clerk of Court.

The following was the finding:—

1.—That the sailing ship's light was not seen by those on board the *Isis* till within two minutes before the collision.

2.—That a proper look-out was kept on board the *Isis*, and that the failure to observe the sailing ship's light was not due to any neglect or default on the part of the steamer.

3.—That when the light was first sighted by those on board the *Isis* the two ships were already in a position which rendered a collision of some sort inevitable, so far as depended on the movements of the steamer alone.

4.—That the action of the master in putting the steamer's helm hard aport and going full speed ahead was right and proper under the circumstances and was the only course open to him.

5.—That the said action of porting and going ahead resulted in materially diminishing the force of the collision.

6.—That under the special circumstances of immediate danger when the sailing ship's light was first sighted, it was impossible for the master of the *Isis* to keep out of the way of the sailing ship.

7.—That after the collision all proper efforts were made on the part of the steamer to stand by and assist the sailing ship.

The Court therefore finds that no blame attaches to the master, officers, or crew of the *Isis* for the collision or for the circumstances attendant thereon.

NEW SHIPS FOR THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

The vernacular papers have given publicity to so many paragraphs about the Nippon Yusen Kaisha which we are assured have been without any foundation in fact, that we can only reprint further items on the distinct understanding that they must be taken for what they are worth. The *Ashai* states that the company are about to order six new steamers to cost about 700,000 yen each, the aggregate tonnage to be 7,500. One is to be built at the Mitsu Bishi yard at Nagasaki, and the order, our contemporary says, has already been given. Though this private dock, we are given to understand, has made considerable progress, it has not yet demonstrated its ability to construct large steamers. Some of the engineers are foreigners and the materials are supplied from abroad. The Mitsu Bishi Company are prepared to construct the ship for the same figure as the foreign firms will build the others, though they expect to lose about 10,000 yen on the transaction. This they are willing to bear, if need be, for the sake of gaining experience, whereby they may have greater confidence in their aim to build a ship as large as 10,000 tons some time in the future.

Mr. Yasui has been appointed manager for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha at Bombay, where the company will shortly open their own office. Messrs. Tata & Co. have hitherto been agents for the company at Bombay.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

VALUE OF LAND IN KOBE.

We have recently given some account of the great rise in the price of land that has taken place in Kobe during the last few months, so that the movement at present almost amounts to a boom. We learn some interesting facts as to the rise in values from our vernacular contemporary the *Kwansei Shogyo Nippo*. It is stated that in Nakayamate-dori land is now valued at 15 yen per *tsubo* which a few months ago could be bought for 10 yen. In Shimoyamate-dori the rise is still greater, being from 10 to 20 yen. In Kitanagasa-dori lots, including buildings erected on them, have risen in value from 20 and 25 yen to 50 and 55 yen per *tsubo*, while in Motomachi values are now reckoned from 75 to 100 yen. Some lots in Sakaimachi are valued at present as high as 140 and 150 yen. Altogether the rise in land values in Kobe during the last few months has been most remarkable, keeping pace with the trade speculation that has been in progress.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

THE JAPANESE DIET.

The Japanese Diet was opened on the 28th December. We avail ourselves of the *Japan Mail's* translations of the Emperor's speech and the draft address to the Throne on the subject of foreign policy.

THE EMPEROR'S SPEECH.

We hereby perform the ceremony of opening the Imperial Diet and announce the fact to the members of the House of Peers and of the House of Representatives.

We are rejoiced that, with the advice and concert of the civil and military servants of Our Court and of yourselves, as well as by the hearty cooperation of Our people, the war with China was brought to a glorious termination. At home, Formosa has been reduced to order; and abroad, our relations with the foreign Powers are growing more and more intimate. What is now of urgent importance to the country is that peace should be maintained and efforts concentrated upon the increase and promotion of national prosperity and progress. We have, consequently, directed Our Ministers of State to elaborate various schemes required for the advancement of the country in the fields of industry, communications, and education. These schemes we have caused to be submitted to the Diet in the Budget for the 29th fiscal year of *Meiji* and in Projects of Laws.

As to the defences of the country, it has ever been our intention to complete them by degrees. Desirous of repairing the injuries occasioned during the recent hostilities, and of making necessary provisions for self-protection, We have charged Our Advisers with the task of elaborating the measures to be adopted. We have further ordered them to seek the Diet's approval for the outlays involved in carrying out those measures. We are confident that Our good and loyal subjects will be only too glad to bear whatever increase of their public burdens is thereby entailed.

We are happy to be able say that, through the glorious virtues of Our illustrious Ancestors, and the loyalty and courage of Our subjects, Our Empire has already made large progress in civilization. But the nation has a long and arduous journey yet to perform. It is, therefore, Our pleasure that you, the members of both Houses of the Diet, should, by discharging your duty of harmonious cooperation, endeavour to conform to Our wishes.

THE ADDRESS TO THE THRONE ON THE SUBJECT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

The following is a translation of the draft Address to the Throne introduced in the House of Representatives on the 28th instant over the signatures of Messrs. Shimada, Ozaki, Otake, Ohigashi, Nakamura, Hatoyama, Suzuki, Taguchi, Inukai, and Ishiwara:—

The undersigned, Your Majesty's humble servant, Kusumoto Masataka, President of the House of Representatives, herewith, by a resolution of the said House, most reverently submits the present Address to the Throne.

For more than two hundred days after the commencement of the late war with China, Your Majesty held the Court at Hiroshima, where Your Majesty personally directed military affairs, and shared the labours and hardships of Your Majesty's officers and men. Animated by Your Majesty's example, the whole people rose like one man determined to serve their Sovereign and country; while all in the Army and the Navy went to the front with the resolution to conquer or to die. The result has been a glorious triumph for the Imperial arms—a triumph principally due to the grand martial virtues of Your Majesty. Your Majesty's humble servants, the undersigned and other members of the House of Representatives, being aware of the importance of their functions and duties, relieved the national coffers from all danger of deficiency by voting a large War Supply, and also spared no effort to rouse the martial spirit of the people, urging them to devote themselves to the service of their Sovereign. In all this, they were actuated by reverent solicitude to conform with Your Majesty's wishes and to contribute their humble mite to the execution of the grand Imperial policy, thereby elevating the position of their country. The Ministers of State, on the other hand, proved themselves so negligent in the conduct of foreign affairs that they have not only been incapable of securing the legitimate fruits of the victory of the Imperial arms, but have even suffered a stain to be cast upon the dignity of the country. The Fêngtien (Liaotung) peninsula was occupied as part of the price of the valued blood of Your Majesty's subjects, and by its retrocession the Ministers of State cannot escape the blame of having employed the Imperial troops and sacrificed lives for no adequate reason. Nor is that all. Not twenty days had passed from the issue of an Imperial Rescript proclaiming the acquisition of the territory from China, when yielding to the intervention of Russia, Germany, and France, that Rescript was converted into a dead letter and a pledge was given for the retrocession of the territory. Such conduct cannot fail to seriously injure the prestige of the Imperial House and compromise the dignity of the country. When the empire is engaged in a foreign war, it is one of the most important duties of the Ministers of State to keep a vigilant watch over the conduct of neutral Powers and take precautions against their possible antagonism. Such vigilance and such precautionary measures are particularly important in regard to questions of teritory. To conclude a treaty of peace without taking these essential precautionary steps is a gross neglect of duty on the part of those charged with diplomatic affairs. Such was the incapacity of the Ministers of State in the field of diplomacy, that they could neither prevent the formation of a hostile alliance by Russia, Germany, and France, nor confront that alliance with a counter-alliance. They had not even the courage to rely upon the justice of their country's cause and reject the demand of the Allies. In a moment of confusion and consternation they knew only how to bow their heads to the interfering Powers, thereby subjecting the country to unprecedented humiliation and disgrace.

It was by no means a novel phenomenon that European Powers should prepare for intervention by increasing their armaments in the East. Your Majesty's servants in the House of Representatives offered an admonition to the Ministers of State on this subject in the seventh and eighth sessions of the Diet. In utter disregard of these admonitions, and in profound ignorance of the diplomatic intervention already in sight, the Ministers concluded the Shimonoseki Treaty and asked for Your Majesty's Rescript sanctioning that Treaty. Immediately afterwards, tamely yielding to the remonstrance of the three Powers, they again asked for another Rescript annulling the former one. Through their misconduct the glorious victories of the country's arms ended in lowering Your Majesty's prestige and impairing the country's dignity. This is a matter of profound grief to the undersigned and other servants of Your Majesty in the House of Representatives.

Equally regrettable was the Korean disturbance of the 8th of October last. A Minister Plenipotentiary carries Your Majesty's credentials and represents the Empire at the Court to which he is accredited. In recommending a functionary to discharge such a grave responsibility the utmost caution and circumspection should be exercised by the Minister of State. What has been their behaviour in the present instance? They seem to think that their responsibility ends with the dismissal of the members of the Legation. But so long as the Ministers themselves remain in office who recommended the appointment of the erring officials, how can it be possible to prove to the world that the misdeeds of those officials were opposed to the wishes of Your Majesty and of the nation? The truth is that the difficulties of the Korean situation are to be principally ascribed to the retrocession of the Fêngtien peninsula, and that the misdeeds of the diplomatic officials under consideration were in one sense an unavoidable consequence of the vacillating policy pursued by the Government toward Korea. Mistaken in policy, injudicious in the recommendation of officials, and incompetent in controlling and directing them, the Ministers of State have to answer for serious neglect of duty. There are several other instances of maladministration on the part of the Ministers in domestic, as well as foreign affairs. But none compares in gravity with those connected with the return of Fêngtien and with the Korean question. Your Majesty may be so magnanimous as to pass over the Ministers' misconduct, but it is to be feared that to show magnanimity toward them will be prejudicial to the interests of the country. It being the duty of the undersigned and others to offer admonition, they would be guility of an act of disloyalty to Your Majesty did they keep silence on this question. Consequently, they have ventured to appeal to Your Majesty's enlighted judgment in connection with the above mentioned two most serious cases of maladministration on the part of the Ministers of State. Impressed with the fact that difficulties are fast multiplying in the East, it is the humble opinion of the

undersigned and others that no measure is more urgently required under the circumstances than to settle the question of past maladministration and make the Ministers of State resign their portfolios. The undersigned and other members of the House of Representatives do thus give expression to the sentiments of the nation, humbly praying for Your Majesty's august judgment.

THE BUDGET.

Tokyo, 29th December.

The Budget of the 29th year of Meiji was presented to the Diet to-day. The total estimated revenue for the coming year is 138,070,677 *yen*, and the expenditure 152,071,463 *yen*, thus showing an estimated excess of expenditure over income of 14,000,785 *yen*. The deficit is to be met by new taxation proposals, which will be shortly introduced.

HONGKONG.

On New Year's Day the annual sports in connection with the Taikoo Sugar Refinery were held. The weather was perfect and there was a big holiday crowd present. On Friday the Sanitary Board met; at the Police Court Mr. Minhinnett, building overseer, was fined $50 for giving false evidence against a ricksha coolie, and at Shaukiwan an Indian policeman fatally shot a Chinaman and afterwards committed suicide. An appeal in an alleged theft of pearls case was heard at the Supreme Court on Saturday and proved unsuccessful. As a sequel to the case a recommendation will be made for the release of the man sent to gaol on the charge of stealing the jewellery. The light and pass regulations, which caused considerable ill-feeling amongst the Chinese, have been modified by direction of the Governor.

Sir William Robinson gave a dance at Government House on Thursday evening.

The Volunteer Corps will take part in the Garrison mobilisation on the 11th inst.

There were 1,284 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 131 were Europeans.

A shop accountant was sent to gaol for six months on Saturday for embezzling $410. He admitted misappropriating $200.

At West Point on Monday afternoon one man was killed and five others sustained injuries by the fall of a scaffolding in connection with a building on the reclamation.

A Chinese procession took place on the 2nd inst. to celebrate the reopening of the Kun Yun Miu temple, which was blown down in the 1894 typhoon and has since been rebuilt.

The yacht *Catarina*, which left Singapore on the 23rd December, arrived here on the 1st inst., with Messrs. Wallace, Johnstone, W. Johnstone, Sturges, Payne, Holmes, Beerne, and Horner on board.

At the Police Court on Monday two men were sentenced each to three months' hard labour for assaulting a Chinese constable who in the execution of his duty had arrested a man for being out without a light.

Mr. H. V. Ermekeil, of Messrs. H. H. Kirch and Co., Ice House Street, was summoned for keeping two dogs without a licence. The defendant produced the necessary licences and the summons was dismissed.

At the Supreme Court on the 31st Dec. Mr. Herbert William Looker (of Mr. Deacon's office) was admitted by Sir Fielding Clarke (Chief Justice) to practice in the Supreme Court of Hongkong as a solicitor.

At a meeting held on the evening of the 3rd inst. of the Committees appointed by the various Lodges it was decided to hold a ball on Monday, the 17th February next, in celebration of the Jubilee of Freemasonry in Hongkong and of the Zetland Lodge.

A very successful bachelors' ball was given at Canton on Friday evening, at which a number of visitors from Macao and Hongkong were present. The room was tastefully decorated with foliage and flags, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

The chief and first class petty officers of H.M.S. *Centurion* gave a smoking concert at the R. N. Seamen's Club on the evening of the 2nd inst. and there was a very good attendance. The programme contained many excellent items, all of which were warmly appreciated.

There was a report in circulation on Saturday to the effect that instructions had been received for the appointment of two additional unofficial members on the Legislative Council, but we believe the report was at least premature and that nothing has yet been definitely decided in the matter.

A Chinese clerk, living in Gough Street jumped overboard from the *Ying Fat* ferry launch on the 1st instant. He was picked up by a water boat and while there he again made an attempt to reach the water. He was charged at the Police Court on the 3rd inst. with attempted suicide and remanded.

The fire alarm bell was rung at 3.30 p.m. on the 31st Dec. The Fire Brigade and a detachment of police from the Central Station turned out and hurried to a narrow lane off Queen's Road Central. It was then found that a few bits of rubbish had been on fire in an unoccupied room. Someone had extinguished the flames before any damage was done, and so the services of the brigade were not wanted.

The tie between the 35th Company, R.A., and H.M.S. *Centurion* in the Hongkong Football Challenge Cup Competition was played on Saturday and resulted in a victory for the *Centurion* by three goals to two. The opposing teams in the third round are as follows:—

F Company, R.B., *v.* Hongkong Football Club.
B Company, R.B., *v.* 12th Company, S.D., R.A.
Kowloon, *v.* Hongkong Colts.
H.M.S. *Centurion*, *v.* C Company, R.B.

The Committee have decided that teams must wear distinctive colours. The first mentioned teams have choice of ground and must supply balls. Kick-off at 4.30. This round must finish before 1st February.

A charge of manslaughter has been preferred against Kwok U Tan, master of the *Wing Li* ferry launch. The launch was proceeding from Victoria to Yaumati on the morning of the 2nd inst. when she ran down a small fishing boat, in which were three men. The occupants were all thrown into the water and one of them, named Keung Yung Tak, was drowned. The other two were picked up by a cargo boat. The allegation against the master was that he made no efforts to save the deceased. He was brought up at the Police Court on the 3rd inst. and remanded.

Operators on the stock exchange would find it a convenience if the Stockbrokers Association would quote the shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. in dollars instead of at so much premium. The latter course involves a calculation in respect of every transaction to determine the price, which is a waste of time and trouble. On the London market Bank shares are quoted in pounds, not at so much premium, and, substituting dollars for pounds, it would be well if the same course were followed here.

As will be seen by the report of the Sanitary Board meeting the military authorities have been complaining of the stench from the conservancy boats which anchor in the neighbourhood of Stonecutters' Island. The sanitary authorities seem sceptical as to the existence of any ground of complaint. The bathing parties which go over to Laichikok Bay and Stonecutters' in summer will, however, be glad if the complaint results in the removal of the nuisance, of the existence of which various high officers of the Government must be convinced from their own experience. It may be difficult to determine the precise range of the stench, but it would be rather singular if it did not sometimes reach Stonecutters.

Two death inquiries were held at the Magistracy on the 31st Dec. One concerned the death of a seaman named James Lawton, who sat on a narrow beam overhanging the water near the Canton wharf two or three days ago. As he was drunk a fellow seaman warned him of the risk he was running. Lawton replied "G—d— you; leave me alone." He then fell into the water and was drowned. The other inquest was on the body of the Rifleman named William Killick, who was drowned during a boating trip on the 15th December. In both cases the Magistrate found that death resulted from drowning, and in the second case he added that there was no evidence to show how the boat capsized.

A sneak thief was sent to gaol for four months by Mr. T. Sercombe Smith on Monday. The prisoner went on board the *Gaelic* and cut open the coat of a Chinaman with the object of getting a purse full of money. The attempt, however, was noticed in time and the rascal was caught red-handed.

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 31st December, 1895, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average amount.	Specie in reserve.
	$	$
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China...	1,731,656	1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	4,816,624	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	428,151	212,000
Total	6,976,431	3,712,000

The Honorary Treasurer of the *Edgar* Relief Fund begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—

The European Staff of the Kowloon Dock	$45
Mr. N. A. Siebs	25
Mr. R. Inglis	10
Mr. T. Sercombe Smith	10
Mr. H. Skött	10
"A Poor Broker Man"	10
The Praya East Hotel	5
	$115
Brought forward	671
Total up to date	$786

A very pleasing little ceremony took place on the 3rd inst. on board the German steamship *China*. For a number of years the boat has been under charter to Messrs. Tungkee & Co. and employed by them continuously in the Saigon trade, and the very kind and courteous treatment which her passengers have always received from the captain and his officers induced them to present the ship with a very handsome Chinese flag, made of heavy red coloured silk and having large embroidered Chinese characters in the centre meaning "Good luck and a prosperous future." The fine flag was hoisted amidst a tremendous roar of firecrackers, and those on board, representatives of the firm of Tungkee & Co. and their foreign local agents and brokers, enthusiastically drank the health of the genial skipper, Capt. Voss, and after partaking of a splendid repast, followed by a good deal of speechifying, this pleasant little episode in the Hongkong shipping trade came to an end.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

On the 1st instant the Magistrate of Namhoi ordered two prisoners to be sent to the Tin-tsz-ma-tan for the ling-chi or slicing process. One of them was a Shau-tsoi who had a fight with his uncle and killed him in the struggle. The other's crime was that he killed an old man belonging to the same clan as himself.

The Tartar-General pays visits every night in the disguise of an ordinary individual to all the police stations in the city. On the 22nd ultimo he visited the police station in Tai-sz Street, where he discovered that one of the policemen was absent. He asked the other policemen where the absentee had gone. One said that he had gone to see his mother, who was ill. His Excellency said that every one should ask permission before leaving his duty. He at once sent some one to call the absentee back. When the man came back, His Excellency ordered him and his friend who spoke in favour of him to be beaten with twenty blows each. The former was punished for being absent without asking permission, and the latter for telling a lie.

About one thousand five hundred soldiers lately arrived at Canton from the province of Hunam. They were sent for by Viceroy Tan for the defence of Canton.

Lau Hok-san, one of the most powerful San-sz in Canton, was brought to the military court for trial the other day. He was prosecuted by a good number of San-sz for misconduct,

squeezing and acting bully to the common people. He has been degraded.

The Chinese in Cuba have sent an order to Canton for some bric-a-brac and other curiosities, which will be used for making the Chinese Consul in Cuba a present on the celebration of his birthday.

On the 23rd ultimo a band of about sixty robbers made an attack on a village named Sancho, near Whampoa. Eleven houses were robbed of all their valuable contents. An old farmer offered resistance, but was shot dead.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain F. Brinkley has been promoted to the rank of Kun-santo (3rd grade of merit), and has been rewarded with the decoration of *Zuihosho*.

The *Japan Mail* of the 30th December contains a telegraphic announcement of the death, at Paris, of Mr. J. Girrette, President du Conseil d'Administration des Messageries Maritimes.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 31st December says the *Smith*, *Tehhsing*, and *Feechiu* have got afloat again in the Yangtsze, and the only vessel then ashore was the *Sin Fokien*. The *Smith* was to proceed to the assistance of the latter vessel.

After being withdrawn at $31,000 a few days previously, the German steamer *Weiland* was again put up for sale by auction by Messrs. Powell and Co. at Singapore on the 28th December and sold for $29,000 to Messrs. McAlister and Co.

A Yokohama press despatch of the 30th December reads:—There is still the same hesitancy on the part of the banks to accept foreign bills of exchange, in consequence of the Venezuelan trouble. The silk market, too, is practically at a standstill, as foreign exporters are withholding their orders. Prices are going down. Only 58 *ko* were sold to-day.

The *Straits Times* of the 26th December says:—Whilst the Russian steamer *Nijni Novgorod*, which arrived on Tuesday afternoon, was on a voyage from Vladivostock to Singapore via Nagasaki she picked up on the 14th instant in the China Sea twenty-two men from a water-logged junk. These men were brought to Singapore and were handed over to the Chinese Consul-General.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 23rd December says:—The German steamer *Tetartos*, 1,578 tons, Capt. Dinse, from Hongkong to Singapore, went ashore on the Pan Reef, Riho Straits, on the night of the 20th inst. and remains there up to the present. The captain attributes the accident to an unusually strong southerly current and the night being dark and cloudy. Assistance has been sent and it is hoped that the vessel may be floated at the next spring tide.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 27th December says:—The passengers who arrived by the German mail on Tuesday night had a rather novel and somewhat uncomfortable experience. They left the *Sachsen* on the *Samson* at 11 p.m., the night being clear, but after the Bar had been crossed a thick fog set in, so that it was impossible to see the way. Under the circumstances the commander of the *Samson* deemed it necessary to anchor, as it was not safe to proceed, so the passengers had to remain on board all night, Captain Grandon doing what he could to make them comfortable. The fog continued during the remainder of the night and for some hours during the morning, and the tender did not land her passengers till 11 a.m.

At a regular meeting of the Lodge Star of Southern China, 2013, Canton, held on Saturday night, Bro. E. T. Bond was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by Wor. Bro. J. D. Christie, assisted by Wor. Bro. Mackenzie and Wor. Bro. F. B. Smith. After the installation Wor. Bro. E. T. Bond appointed and invested his officers as follows:—I.P.M., Wor. Bro. F. Salinger; S.W., Bro. W. Helms; J.W., Bro. C. Lafrentz; Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. G. H. Davies; Treasurer, Bro. E. A. Stanton; Secretary, Bro. J. Naismith; S.D., Bro. O. Struckmeyer; J. D., Bro. H. Schweiger; Organist, Bro. A. W. Hewitt; D.C., Bro. S. C. Jex; Steward, Bro. H. S. Moss; I.G., Bro. A. Donald; and Tyler, Bro. E. A. Strehlanck.

According to the *Hupao*, news has been received announcing the re-appointment, by Imperial Edict, of General Liu Yung-fu, the ex-Black Flag Chief, and before the late war Brigadier-General of Namoa, Kwangtung, to the last-named post. Liu has, however, received three months' leave of absence to return to Kwangsi, where he had settled nearly forty years ago (his native place being one of the inland towns of Hainan island), and will not therefore resume his old command before next March.

The Ningpo correspondent of the *Mercury* writing on the 26th December says:—On the 24th inst. while two German gentlemen from your port were shooting on the Lakes, their coolie, to whom they gave one of their guns, accidentally shot a poor deaf and dumb countryman in the face, whereupon the villagers seized the culprit and houseboat and all the property belonging to the Germans; so they hastened down to Ningpo with the wounded man, who was immediately placed under Dr. Molyneaux's care, and the case was reported to the English Consul, who wrote at once to H.E. the Taotai, giving him all particulars of the case, but up to the present moment the house-boat, guns, clothing, etc., have not been returned. The wounded man is in the Sisters of Charity Hospital, doing as well as can be expected, but it is feared he will lose the sight of both eyes.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,31[illegible],845	7,431,245
Amoy	440,573	719,368
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,248
Shanghai and Hankow	20,724,674	21,394,493
	39,653,500	43,905,354

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96. lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Amoy	11,59[illegible],937	16,535,397
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,556
Shanghai	27,873,078	24,972,926
	45,532,666	46,134,878

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96 lbs.	1894-95 lbs.
Yokohama	29,236,741	27,938,522
Kobe	18,012,100	16,156,509
	47,248,841	44,095,031

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 2nd January.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular.)—London telegrams dated the 30th ulto. report the market "quiet," Gold Kiling 8/1½, and Blue Elephants 10/7½. Deliveries from 1st to 30th December 800 bales. Raw Silk.—There is no change to report. Business is dragging and the prices show no material change. Tsatlees.—About 150 bales changed hands during the week under review at quotations. Taysaams.—Are quiet and settlements since our last amount to only 20 bales. Yellow Silks.—The demand for the Indian markets continues at the quotations give below. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns from the 26th to the 31st December, are 545 bales of White, 205 bales of Yellow and 127 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No business to report. Waste Silks.—No business has passed this week and Stocks are small. Pongees.—Some 6,000 pieces White Pongees have been contracted for at Tls. 14.80 for 21/22 inches 70 yards, four to six months delivery. The prices paid show an advance on last contracts.

Purchases include:—Tsatlees.—Bird Chungling at Tls. 405, Mountain 4 at Tls. 380, Almond Flower Sutemay at Tls. 345, Gold Kiling at Tls. 345. Taysaam.—Green Kahing Cicada at Tls. 377½. Yellow Silk.—Szechong at Tls. 177½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Shanghai	43,395	33,156
Canton	11,638	9,523
Yokohama	14,199	13,058
	69,232	55,737

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Canton	8,610	5,726
Shanghai	7,150	5,825
Yokohama	22,768	17,711
	38,528	29,262

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—The market is rather weaker. Quotations for Formosa are $82.00 to $82.50. During the past week sales have been 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—Stocks are rather lower and prices have improved slightly. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White	$7.45 to	7.47	per pcl.	
do. „ 2, White	6.90 to	6.92	„	
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	4.82 to	4.85	„	
do. „ 2 Brown	4.66 to	4.70	„	
Swatow No. 1, White	7.35 to	7.37	„	
do. „ 2, White	6.85 to	6.87	„	
do. „ 1, Brown	4.72 to	4.75	„	
Swatow, No. 2, Brown	4.61 to	4.65	„	
Foochow Sugar Candy	10.92 to	10.97	„	
Shekloong „	9.90 to	9.95	„	

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The British bark *Torrisdale*, Hongkong to New York, 31st December, took:—12,802 packages Fire Crackers, 9,774 half-chests Tea, 7,860 rolls Matting, 2,295 cases Fans, 1,500 bales Hemp, 1,271 packages Rattans, 700 boxes Preserves, 160 casks Preserves, 649 bales Strawbraid, 100 cases Cassia Buds, and 278 packages Sundries.

The P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, Hongkong to London, 1st January, took:—1,000 bales Hemp, 12 cases Cigars, 250 bales Waste Silk, 122 bales Canes, 95 cases Bristles, 1,650 cases Preserves, 351 casks Preserves, 2,856 rolls Matting, 870 cases Chinaware, 15 cases Peacock Feathers, 8 cases Silk Piece Goods, 40 cases Palm Leaf Fans, 16 cases Bambooware, 28 packages Sundries, 2,238 boxes Tea (18,867 lbs. Congou, 1,837 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe, 25,515 lbs. Scented Caper, 965 lbs. Sorts), and 30 packages Tea (in transit); for Buenos Ayres:—700 packages Tea; for Glasgow:—3 cases Threads; for Trieste:—21 cases Shells.

The P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, Hongkong to London, 2nd January, took:—2 cases Silk Piece Goods; for Gibraltar:—1 case Silk Piece Goods, and 4 packages Sundries; for France:—130 bales Raw Silk; for Manchester:—175 bales Waste Silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—Bengal.—There has been very little doing during the interval, holders being unwilling to part with their stock. Prices close firm at $765 for New and Old Patna, and at $755 for New and Old Benares.

Malwa.—The market has ruled dull, and business has been very meagre. The following are the current figures:—

New	$730 with allowance of	0 to 1	catty
Old (2/7 yrs.)	$740 „	1 to 1½	„
Old (8/9 yrs.)	$740 „	0 to 1	„

Persian.—Some small sales have taken place during the past week, and prices close weak. Quotations continue at $700 to $775 for Paper-wrapped and at $650 to $690 for Oily according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	180	chests.
Old Patna	1,480	„
New Benares	230	„
Old Benares	660	„
Malwa	340	„
Persian	900	„

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	$	$	$	$	$	$
Jan 1	740	740	730	730	730	740
Jan. 2	737½	737½	727½	727½	730	740
Jan. 3	735	735	725	725	730	740
Jan. 4	750	750	740	740	730	740
Jan. 5	750	750	740	740	730	740
Jan. 6	750	750	740	740	730	740
Jan. 7	765	765	765	765	730	740

RICE.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—The advance in rates continues. Closing quotations are :—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	$2.17 to 2.20
,, Round, good quality	2.46 to 2.48
,, Long	2.63 to 2.65
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.21 to 2.23
,, Garden, ,, No. 1	2.70 to 2.72
Siam White	2.91 to 2.93
,, Fine Cargo	3.21 to 3.24

COALS.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—Market keeps fairly steady. Small sales of Japanese on private terms are reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	$12.00 to 13.00		ex ship, nominal.
Australian	8.00 to	—	ex ship, nominal.
Miike Lump	$5.75 to	6.00	ex ship, nominal.
Miike Small	5.00 to	—	ex ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	4.00 to	5.50	ex ship, nominal
Kebao Lump	6.00 to	7.00	ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Small	4.00 to	4.50	ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—Amongst the sales reported are the following :—

COTTON AND PIECE GOODS :—*Bombay Yarns.*—375 bales No. 10 at $70.50 to $74.50, 360 bales No. 12 at $70.50 to $74, 300 bales No. 16 at $86 to $91, 615 bales No. 20 at $85.50 to $91. *Grey Shirtings.*—500 pieces 10 lbs. Place at $3.40, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs Red 5 Men at $3.20, 600 pieces 8¼ lbs. Red Joss at $2.80, 600 pieces 8¼ lbs. Red 7 Boys at $2.55, 1,200 pieces 8¼ lbs. Blue Peach at $2.90, 500 pieces 11 lbs. Double Flags at $3.70, 1,200 pieces 8¼ lbs. 3 Dogs at $3.05, 1,000 pieces 11 lbs. 2 Blue Dragon at $4.30. *White Shirtings*—500 pieces No. 3 at $3.27½, 1,000 pieces D 70 at $3.50, 300 pieces Blue Lion at $5.60, 500 pieces Green Stag at $3.35. *Victoria Lawns.*—4,000 pieces Lion at $0.66, 5,000 pieces Double Fish at $0.62½, 3,000 pieces Red Lion at $0.89, 2,000 pieces Bird at $0.65, 12,000 pieces Flying Eagle at $0.60. *T-Cloths.*—750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Black Peach at $2.12½, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Dragon at $2.40, 750 pieces 7 lbs. B Dragon B.B. at $2.35, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at $2.40, 1,500 pieces 8 lbs. V.V. at $2.96, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. X X. at $3.01, 300 pieces 8 lbs. X.M. at $2.40, 2,550 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at $2.40 to $2.76, 1,875 pieces 8 lbs. Gold Dragon at $2.30 to $2.80. *Drills.*—150 pieces 15 lbs. Lion and Palm at $4.60. *Turkey Reds.* 700 pieces 1¼ lb. Mandarin at $1.75. *Long Ells.*—125 pieces pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at $7.50.

METALS.—*Iron.*—100 piculs wire nails at $5.35. *Yellow Metals.*—60 cases New Brand 14/18 ozs. at $24.30. *Quicksilver.*—50 flasks at $116.50.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale		
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	$64.00	to	$89.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	104.00	to	108.00
,, 22 to 24	110.00	to	113.00
,, 28 to 32	113.00	to	119.00
,, 38 to 42	126.00	to	135.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece		
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.45	to	1.60
7lbs.	1.95	to	2.15
8.4 lbs.	2.30	to	3.25
9 to 10 lbs	3.30	to	4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.35	to	2.60
58 to 60 ,,	2.75	to	3.35
64 to 66 ,,	3.45	to	3.85
Fine	4.20	to	6.95
Book-folds.	3.20	to	5.60
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.67	to	1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.). Ord'y.	1.50	to	1.65
7lbs. (32 ,,), ,,	1.87	to	2.05
6lbs. (32 ,,), Mexs.	1.70	to	1.85
7lbs. (32 ,,), ,,	2.20	to	2.45
8 to 8¼lbs. (36 in.)	2.40	to	3.15
Drills, English—40 yds., 13¾ to 14lbs.	3.36	to	4.40
FANCY COTTONS			
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.40	to	3.0
Brocades—Dyed	3.85	to	4.70
	per yard		
Damasks	0.14	to	0.18
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08	to	0.12
Velvets—Black. 22 in.	0.22	to	0.30
Velveteens—18 in.	0.10	to	0.22
	per dozen		
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.45	to	0.90
WOOLLENS			
	per yard		
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60	to	0.95
German	1.00	to	1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25	to	2.70
	per piece		
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.70	to	8.00
Assorted	6.80	to	8.10
Camlets—Assorted	15.00	to	31.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	14.00	to	22.00
Orleans—Plain	3.80	to	5.10
	per pair		
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.70	to	9.50
METALS			
	per picul		
Iron—Nail Rod	2.95	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar	2.92½	to	2.95
Swedish Bar	4.40	to	—
Small Round Rod	3.40	to	—
Hoop	4.10	to	—
Old Wire Rope	3.00	to	—
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop	6.60	to	—
	per case		
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	26.00	to	—
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	25.50	to	—
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	25.50	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.00	to	—
Tiles	24.50	to	—
Tin	36.50	to	—
	per box		
Tin-Plates	5.45	to	—
	per cwt. case		
Steel	5.50	to	—
SUNDRIES			
	picul per		
Quicksilver	117.00	to	—
	per box		
Window Glass	3.25	to	—
	per 10 gal. case		
Kerosene Oil	2.25	to	—

SHANGHAI, 2nd January.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noël's report.)—During the last few days of the year the market was decidedly more active, the slight advance in Exchange enabling Importers to meet the ideas of the dealers to some extent, and, so far as the magnitude of the business goes, the closing week of 1895 will certainly not rank among the worst of that eventful and not altogether unsatisfactory year. Buyers and sellers have both had their ups and downs, but taken all round the trade has been a paying one, and a great deal better than was anticipated at the commencement. The effects of the war were not so far-spreading as might have been expected, thanks chiefly to the action of certain foreign Powers in helping China out of the mire by providing the first instalment of the heavy indemnity she was condemned to pay, which otherwise could not have failed to press very severely on the trading classes. The country occupied and ceded did not hold a very prominent position as regards the Piece Goods trade of this port, the falling-off in deliveries the last two years being almost entirely accounted for by the higher range of prices ruling and consequent curtailment of the consumption. The spirit of progress has at last been aroused in this country, and the next few years are likely to see some great strides made towards the opening up of the interior and the development of its vast natural resources. An improvement in Exchange on the Banks re-opening after the Christmas holidays helped to put a little more life into the market, as it confirmed the strong opinion the natives have of much higher rates in the near future. In fact, in many cases recently, they have shown themselves willing to guarantee slightly better than the current quotation, and by this means several transactions have gone through for the Spring delivery in both English and American makes. Ready money continues plentiful amongst the dealers and they appear quite willing to pay cash in consideration of a small concession in prices, although the goods are not intended to supply immediate requirements. Telegrams have been received from Corea to-day, by some of the native dealers, to the effect that there is to be some changes made in the national dress, and consequently orders have been sent to stop further shipments, but so far Foreign Importers do not appear to have received any confirmation of this.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—3rd January.—The interruption of the Christmas and New Year holidays since my last report has to a great extent suspended business transactions. Very few operations have been reported, but those that have been booked tend to confirm the hopes of good trade in the immediate future. In spite of the war the result of 1895 has been on the whole profitable, and the trade of Shanghai has gone on steadily. Some few transactions are on record as below, but nothing fresh can be said regarding Nailrods, which remain firm on the other side. Freights are tending upwards and apparently further advances in values may be expected shortly. Lead.—No sales reported. 1,000 cases Bamboo Steel (Horse chop) at £10 7s.; 50 cases Copper Sheating at Tls. 21 ex. godown £10 7s.; 400 tons Steel Plate Cuttings at 77s., 78s. c.i.f. and c.; 100 tons Scrap private; 200 tons Liverpool Horse-shoes at 81s. 6d. to 82s. c.i.f.; 200 cases Corrugated Iron 26 by 28 at £13 15s. 0d. c.i.f. and c.; 50/100 tons Steel Plate Cuttings ¼, ⅜, ½, ⅝ at 83s.; 1,500 cases Tinplates 100 lbs. private terms.

TUESDAY, 7th January.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1⅝
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1⅝
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1¾
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2⅛
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.69
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.74
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.18
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	—
Credits, 60 days' sight	—
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	183
Bank, on demand	183¼
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	183
Bank, on demand	183¼
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72⅛
Private, 30 days' sight	73¼
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	7 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	—
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	48

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 7th January.—"Normal" best expresses the state of the market since date of our last. About the usual amount of business has been put through and rates have ruled steady with in most instances an upward tendency.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais—In the early part of the week a few small lots were negotiated at 182 per cent. prem. and later a fair number of shares changed hands at 183 and 185 per cent. prem. for cash. At time of writing sellers at 184 rule the market. Nationals continue neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have found further buyers at $200, and China Traders at $73½. Other Marines have ruled neglected at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue on the upward line and sales have been effected at $275, $280, $285, and $287½, closing firm at latter rate. Chinas have found buyers at $89 and $90, closing with buyers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have ruled quiet with small sales at $37½ and 37¼, closing steady; a few forward sales have been effected at equivalent rates. Douglases after sales at $53, $52, and $51½ were done as low as $51; at that rate, however, there are probable buyers and no sellers. Indo-Chinas have been enquired for and have changed hands in fair quantities at $57½, and

more shares could be placed at the rate. Other Shipping stock has been neglected.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are on offer without finding buyers at $114 and a point lower would probably be accepted. Luzons have changed hands at $59 and more could be placed at the rate.

MINING.—Small sales of Punjoms at $5 and a small enquiry for Balmorals and Raubs at quotations is all we have to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled steady at 149 per cent. prem. and a fair business has been put through for cash and at equivalent rates up to June; market closes firm at 149 with no sellers under 150 per cent. prem. Wharfs and Godowns have ruled neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Lands have found buyers in fair quantities at $69 and $69½, closing steady. Hotels are on offer at $19, and West Points continue neglected at $19.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Beyond a few sales of Ices at $97, $98, and $99 we have nothing to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	$125	184 p. ct. prem.
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	$27
Foun. Shares...	£1	$105, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	15s.	$10, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	$50	$6, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$3, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	$20	$10, sellers
China Sugar	$100	$114, sellers
Chinese Loan '86 E. ...	Tls. 250	10 p. ct. prem.
Dakin, Cruicks'k & Co.	$5	$1
Dairy Farm Co.....	$10	$9
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	$25	$20
Green Island Cement...	$10	$14½
H. Brick and Cement...	$12½	$7.50, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	$50	$36
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	$8	$6¾, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	$100	$90, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	$50	$19, sellers
Hongkong Ice	$25	$99, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	$50	$49, sellers
Hongkong Rope.....	$50	$150, buyers
H. & W. Dock	$125	149 p. c. prem., sales & sellers
Insurances—		
Canton.....	$50	$190, ex div. sellers
China Fire	$20	$91
China Traders'	$25	$73½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	$50	$288, sales
North-China	£25	Tls. 225, sellers
Straits	$20	$24½, sales & buyers
Union	$25	$200, sellers
Yangtsze	$60	$121, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	$50	$69½, sales
Humphreys Estate...	$10	$9½
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$16½
West Point Building	$40	$19½
Luzon Sugar	$100	$59, sales & sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Fcs. 500	$75
Jelebu	$5	$2.75, sales & buyers
New Balmoral	$3	$1.60, buyers
Punjom	$4	$5, sales
Do. (Preference).	$1	$1.60
Raubs	13s. 10d.	$3.75
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	$50	$70, buyers
China Shippers	£5	£2.10
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	$50	$51½, sales & sellers
H., Canton and M...	$20	$37½
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	$57½, sales & buyers
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	$37½	$42, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S ...	$10	$12, sellers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 27th December:—(From Messrs. J P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been placed, from Hongkong, for delivery on the 31st of March at 190 per cent. premium, and shares have changed hands locally at 188 per cent. premium for delivery on the 29th of February. The latest London rate is £40. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. shares have been placed at Tls. 42. Shares in the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. were sold to Hongkong at $37½. Marine Insurance.—Union Insurance shares were sold to Hongkong at $200 and $187. Yangtszes were sold locally at $120, and Straits at $24½. Fire Insurance.—China Fire shares were sold at $89. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold at Tls. 36, and China Sugar Refining shares at $112½. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Gas Co.—In consequence of the increased business of the Company, and the increasing size of the Settlements, the Directors, in order to provide funds for the additional plant and mains necessary, have decided to propose an increase of the capital by the issue of 1,000 shares of Tls. 100 each, which will be offered, in the first instance, to shareholders in the Co. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 99 cash, and Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 245 for delivery on 31st March Shares in J. Llewellyn & Co. changed hands at $50.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation—185 per cent. prem.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits Limited, Founders.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ld., *A.*—none.

National Bank of China, Ld., *B.*—$27½.

National Bank of China, Ld., Founders.—$105.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 152½ per share.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 42 per share.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co.—Tls. 50 per share.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 75 per share.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—$37 per share

Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—$73 per share.

Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Tls. 200 per share.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 190 per share.

S C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 186 per share

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—146 per cent. premium.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—$73 per sh.

North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 225 p sh

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—$195½ per share.

Yangtsze Insce. Assocn., Ld.—$120 per share.

Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—$192½ per share.

Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—$24½ per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—260 per sh.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$89 per share.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls 315 per share.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55 per share.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—$49 per share.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2½ per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—$5¾ per share.

Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares—$1.50 per share

Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ld.—$3 per share.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ld.—$3¾ per share

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 202 per sh.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185 per share.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 215 per share.

Hongkong Electric Co., Ld.—$6.75 per share.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 182½ per share.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 35 per share.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—$112½ per share.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—$59 per share.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.—$25 per share.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ld.—Tls. 70 per share.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—$69¼ per share.

Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ld.—$17½.

J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—$50 per share.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 51 per share.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 28½ per share.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 99 per sh.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 235 per share.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld., Founder's—Nominal.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 130 per share.

A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—$13 per share

Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.—£1.

Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ld.—$9.50.

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 40.

International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 47½.

Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ld.—Tls. 47½.

China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.

Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 15.

Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 275 (*a*).

Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 105 (*a*).

Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 110 (*a*).

(*a*) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 3rd January (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Since last writing the rate for tea to New York by direct steamer has been lowered to 30s. chiefly to accommodate those shippers who could find no tonnage for fairly large quantities which they had purchased for shipment by sail. Pacific rates have also fallen, but otherwise there has been no change Rates of freight are:—From Shanghai to London by Conference Line, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; New York, general cargo 40s; tea 30s.; New York *viâ* London, general cargo 50s; tea 50s.; Boston, general cargo 42s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo 50s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 35s. net; New York, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent. Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 35s.; general cargo 40s. net; Marseilles, tallow 35s.; general cargo 37s. 6d. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by sail, 25s. nominals; New York by Pacific Line, tea 1 cent gold. Coast rates are:—Moji to Shanghai $1.10 per ton coal nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai $1 per ton nominal. No disengaged vessel in port.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Glenfarg* (str.), *Mazagon* (str.), *Japan* (str.), *Pakling* (str.), *Kaisar-i-Hind* (str.), *Benlomond* (str.), *Glamorganshire* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Clam* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Peking* (str.), *Gaelic* (str.) *Brodick Castle.*

For VICTORIA.—*Tacoma* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*John R. Kelley, Polyphemus* (str.), *Lennox* (str.), *Fallodon Hall* (str.), *Daniel Barnes.*

For BALTIMORE.—*Amy Turner.*

For AUSTRALIA.—*Changsha* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

January— ARRIVALS.

1, Empress of China, Brit. str., from V'couver.
1, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
1, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
1, Wingsang, British str., from Calcutta.
1, Feiching, British str., from Canton.
1, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
1, Wing Hong, British str., from Swatow.
1, Catarina, British yacht, from Singapore.
1, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.
2, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
2, Hertha, German str., from Kobe.
2, Kiangpack, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
2, Kansu, British str., from Wuhu.
2, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
2, Argyll, British str., from Moji.
2, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
2, Azamor, British str., from Moji.
3, El Dorado, British str., from Canton.
3, Hsinfung, Chinese str., from Canton.
3, Hsinyu, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
3, Miike Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
3, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
3, Germania, German str., from Canton.
3, Highland Forest, British bk., from London.
3, Vindobona, Austrian str., from Kobe.
3, Nagato Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
4, Amur, British str., from Anping.
4, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
4, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
4, Decima, German str., from Sambelang.
4, Daphne, German str., from Canton.
4, Benvenue, British str., from Moji.
4, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.
4, Thekla, German str., from Hamburg.
5, Amigo, German str., from Bangkok.
5, Canton, British str., from Canton.
5, Cheangchew, British str., from Penang.
5, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
5, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
5, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
5, Sachsen, German str., from Shanghai.
5, Singan, British str., from Wuhu.

5, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
5, Wing Hong, British str., from Swatow.
5, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
5, Swatow, German str., from Saigon.
6, Gaelic, British str, from San Francisco.
6, Kong Alf, Norw. str., from Gorantola.
6, Coloma, Amr. bark, from Portland (Or.)
6, Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
6, Rhodora, British str., from Moji.
6, Sabine Rickmers, German str., for Saigon.
6, Siam, British str., from Saigon.
6, Oxus, French str., from Shanghai.
6, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
7, Chihli, British str., from Chinkiang.
7, Foyle, British str., from Port Wallut.
7, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
7, John Baizley, Amr. sch., from Whampoa.
7, Hangchow, British str., from Canton.
7, Hsinyu, Chinese str., from Canton.
7, Adowa, British str., from Saigon.
7, Clam, British str., from Batoum.
7, Kaiser, German cruiser, from Amoy.
7, Kiangpack, Chinese str., from Canton.
7, Taiyick, German str., from Saigon.

January— DEPARTURES.

1, Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
1, Agamemnon, British str., for London.
1, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
1, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
1, P. C. Klao, British str., for Singapore.
1, Hangchow, British str., for Canton.
1, Mascotte, British str., for Moji.
1, Cosmopolit, German str., for Hoihow.
2, Canton, British str., for Canton.
2, Picciola, German str., for Saigon.
2, Glenartney, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
2, Rosetta, British str., for Europe.
2, Torrisdale, British bark, for New York.
2, Keong Wai, British str., for Hoihow.
3, Deuteros, German str., for Saigon.
3, Kansu, British str., for Canton.
3, Kiangpak, Chinese str., for Canton.
3, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
3, El Dorado, British str., for Swatow.
3, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
3, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
3, Nanyang, German str., for Shanghai.
3, Strathdee, British str., for Kobe.
3, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
4, Feiching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
4, Hsinyu, Chinese str., for Canton.
4, Chittagong, British str., for Saigon.
4, Hertha, German str., for Hamburg.
4, Lyderhorn, Norw. str., for K'notzu.
5, Azamor, British str., for Bombay.
5, China, German str., for Saigon.
5, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
5, Decima, German str., for Shanghai.
5, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
5, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
5, Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
5, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
5, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
6, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
6, Singan, British str., for Canton.
6, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.
6, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
6, Hsinfung, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
6, Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
6, Romulus, German str., for Moji.
7, Caroline, British cruiser, for Singapore.
7, Amur, British str., for Amoy.
7, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
7, Evandale, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
7, Nagato Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
7, Thekla, German str., for Yokohama.
7, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Trieste.
7, Wingsang, British str., for Calcutta.

FOOCHOW.

December— ARRIVALS.

22, Irene, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
25, Ceylon, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Namoa, British str., from Hongkong.
26, Yiksang, British str., from Shanghai.
27, Clara, German str., from Tamsui.

December— DEPARTURES.

21, Bengloe, British str., for New York.
21, Haitan, British str., for Hongkong.
23, Loksang, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Irene, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
27, Namoa, British str., for Hongkong.
28, Ceylon, British str., for London.

SHANGHAI.

December— ARRIVALS.

29, Store Nordiske, Danish str., from South.
29, Fooksang, British str., from Hongkong.
29, Anne Main, British bark, from Nagasaki.
29, Natal, French str., from Hongkong.
29, Empress of China, Brit. str., from V'couver.
30, Chungking, British str., from Swatow.
30, Chefoo, British str., from Swatow.
30, Kobe Maru, Jap. str., from Nagasaki.
30, Donau, Norw. str., from Nagasaki.
30, Aida, Amr. sch., from Vancouver, B.C.
30, Kwangchi, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
31, Yiksang, British str., from Foochow.
31, Chintung, Chinese str., from Swatow.
31, Hankow, British str., from Hongkong.
31, Hsinchi, Chi. str., from Tong Ting Lakes.
31, Hoihow, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
31, Omega, British bark, from Port Townsend.

January—

1, Peshawur, British str., from Hongkong.
1, Kaifong, British str., from Hongkong.
1, Menmuir, British str., from Australia.
1, Lyeemoon German st., from Hongkong.
1, Palawan, British str., from London.
1, Nierstein, German str., from Moji.
1, Trym, Norw. str., from Hakodade.
1, Sydney, French str., from Nagasaki.
2, Peehili, British str., from Chefoo.
2, Björg, Norw. str., from Kobe.
2, Pakling, British str., from Japan.
2, Taisang, British str., from Hongkong.
2, Jens Meinich, Norw. str., from Moji.
2, Vulcan, Norw. str., from Moji.
2, Matsuyama Maru, Japan. str., from Japan.
2, Newchwang, British str., from Chefoo.
3, Gremyastchy, Russian cru., from Ningpo.
3, Chingping, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
3, Haeshin, Chinese str., from Foochow.
3, Shengking, British str., from Hongkong.
3, Meifoo, Chinese str., from Hongkong.

December— DEPARTURES.

28, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
29, Hermona, British str., for Nagasaki,
29, Wuchang, British str., for Chefoo.
29, Achilles, British str., for Japan.
29, Irene, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
30, Orestes, British str., for Nagasaki.
30, Oxus, French str., for Japan.
30, Empress of China, Brit. str., for H'kong.
30, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Kobe.
30, Taiwan, British str., for Hongkong.
31, Kobe Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
31, Kalgan, British str., for Wuhu.
31, Hsinyu, Chinese str., for Hongkong.
31, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., for Korea.
31, Fooksang, British str., for Chefoo.

January—

1, Ariel, Norw. str., for Kobe.
2, Hankow, British str., for Tacoma.
3, Sachsen, Ger. str., for Bremen v. H'kong.
2, Chefoo, British str., for Chefoo.
2, Emily F. Whitney, Am. sh., for New York.
2, Brodick Castle, Brit. ship, for Hongkong.
2, Yiksang, British str., for Chingkiang.
3, Poochi, Chinese str., for Wenchow.
3, Kwangchi, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
3, Hoihow, British str., for Chefoo.
3, Kaifong, British str., for Hongkong.
3, Glenesk, British str., for Japan.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Hongkong*, str., from Hoihow—Mr. and Mrs. Benoett.

Per *Formosa*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Messrs. Marshall, Pollard, Cattaneo, and Okura.

Per *Glenartney*, str., from London for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. J. Morgan, Miss Morgan, Mr. G. Morgan.

Per *Phra Nang*, str., from Bangkok—Mr. Edie.

Per *Canton*, str., from Shanghai.—Miss Oström.

Per *Wing Sang*, str., from Culcutta, &c.—Mrs. Leung Kam Tsun, Messrs. Kennard Buxton, Lung Hing Chun, and Long Fook San, and 475 Chinese.

Per *Empress of China*, str., from Vancouver, &c.—Dr. and Mrs. O' Regan, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Schmirdell, Mr. and Mrs. A. Turner, Messrs. R. Rankin, A. Thofehrn, Lam Pak Tsun, Lo Hin Ting, F. J. Parrott, J. Holiday, W. Dennis, D. Landale, Hü and Norman and Mrs. Glover and Mrs. Nölting.

Per *Caturina*, yacht, from Singapore.—Messrs. Wallace Johnstone, Willie Johnstone, Auther Sturgiss, Payne and Negel Hohnes, and Dr. Breen.

Per *Chingtu*, str., from Sydney, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Bowden, Misses Swann and Oxley, Messrs. Harvey, Ward, Heselins, and Rhumjhan, and Masters Bowden.

Per *Hailoong*, str., from Coast Ports—Dr. Merz.

Per *Yuensang*, str., from Manila—Messrs. Duncan and R. P. Fr. Manuel Fernandez.

Per *Gaelic*, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Mrs. J. Howard, Miss L. Fields, Messrs. Assumull, and F. Shiption, and 295 Chinese.

Per *Hohenzollern*, str., from Japan—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Lenz and child, Capt. Jacobsen, Capt. Scholtz, Rev. Wadell, Messrs. Pitts-Tucker and E. Pitts-Tucker, Miss Pitts-Tucker, Misses Anna de Ryke and Jacoba de Ryke, Miss Slade, Messrs. Tozer, Niels L. J. Gron, Bianchi, A. Scovell, Sandow, Herrmann, Paulsen, Wangher, Sandstrom, Johannsen, and Warden.

Per *Oxus*, str., for Hongkong from Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Burden, Misses Lindsay and Oliver, Rev. R. P. Griette, Messrs. Hargraves, Fullerton, Midwood, Lacazette, Morres Benjamin, and Periera and 4 daughters. From Yokohama—Mr., Mrs., and Miss Gordon, Messrs. Balmes, Ibrahim, and Ookura. From Kobe—Mr. Higoshi. From Nagasaki—Mr. Yoshida. For Saigon from Yokohama—Messrs. Martin and Bergé. For Singapore from Shanghai—Mr. Thoform. From Yokohama—Messrs. Meyer and Sak Mahomed. For Port Said from Shanghai—Messrs. Tabbah and Babin Seoul. From Nagasaki—Messrs. Perepelkine and Marabanoff. For Marseilles from Shanghai—Messrs. A. K. Holmann, Wolff, Orielle, Dreyfus, Davis, Landis, Schipper, Scubli, Adoir, and Wood. From Yokohama—Messrs. Yamaza, Kakisaki, dLitti, and Luders. From Nagasaki—Mr., Mrs., and Miss Helselman, Mrs. and Miss Alumine, Mrs. Iwanoff and son, Mr. and Mrs. Zablotowski, Messrs. Ti Fun Tai, Muller, Le Golde, and Inatuko.

DEPARTED

Per *Catherine Apcar*, str., for Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Leung Yum and daughter, Mr. Chan Chok Lau, Mrs. Chan Yee, Mrs. Chan Kuan, and Mr. J. B. Meyer. For Penang—Mrs. Chan Choong, Mr. Ng Lee, Mrs. Chao Tsang Shez. For Calcutta—Misses Gregory (2), Mr. E. Ezekiel.

Per *Ocampo*, str., for Sydney, &c.—Hon. J. L. Parsons, Mr. F. Parsons, Miss Martin, and Mr. T. J. Burke.

Per *Glenartney*, str., for Shanghai—Mrs. J. Morgan, Miss Morgan, Messrs. G. and J. Morgan.

Per *Formosa*, str., for Swatow—Mr. O'Driscoll.

Per *Rosetta*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. J. D. Rees, R.N. For Bombay—Messrs. F. J. Parrott, J. G. Husain, and A. Abdoola. For London—Lieut.-Com. Phillips, R.N., Lieuts. B. C. Baaber, R.N., F. C. H. Allenby, R.N., Surg. W. Spry, R.N., Surg. J. Lowney, K.N., Mrs. Spry, Messrs. J. Wright, Reginald Rankin, C. C. Mead, Edwin Fowler, Master Gunner Wilkinson, Mrs. Wilkinson and 5 children, Qr.-Mr. Sergt. W. F. Summers, Mrs. Summers, and Mr. R. H. Smart. From Shanghai for Singapore—Miss Otova, Mr. R. Manz. For Sydney—Mr. D. Wisas. For London—Miss F. Reid, Messrs. R. F. Kestell and R. E. Harris. For Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman. From Yokohama for Port Said—Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Harmon. For Brindisi.—Mr. H. Shoda. For Ismailia—Mrs. Mathew Hart, Miss Hart, Mr. E. A. Hart, and Mr. R. Davis. For London—Capt. du Boulay and Mr. F. Stewart. From Kobe for Bombay—Mr. T. Inglis. For Ismailia—Dr. H. A. Tupper, Jr. For London—Miss Clemson.

Per *Ceylon*, str., for London from Hongkong—Capt. H. F. Gould Adams, R.A. From Shanghai—Mr. J. Bennett, Rev. H. J. Brown, Master Iren, Capt. F. A. Purkis.

Per *Kwongsang*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. T. Lee, and Surgeon H. N. Stephens, R.N.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Amoy—Messrs. C. F. Harton and Morton Jones. For Manila—Messrs. E. Rawson Walker, P. Fowler, J. S. Brown, Adolfo Roesch, Misses I. Torres, M. Torres, S. Torres, and Miguella Torres.

Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, str., for Kobe—Dr. Kanner. For Yokohama—Messrs. J. Wilson and F. Dyer. For San Francisco—Messrs. K. Buxton and R. C. Voorhies.